

The following letter confirming this raid, I think is of interest. Major Arent DePeyster to Col. Mason Bolton, at Niagara.

Detroit, Aug 4th, 1780.

Sir,—I have the pleasure to acquaint you that Capt. Bird arrived here this morning with about one hundred and fifty prisoners, mostly Germans who speak English, the remainder coming in—for in spite of all his endeavors to prevent it, the Indians broke into their forts and seized many—the whole will amount to about three hundred and fifty.

Their chief desire is to remain and settle at this place, as you will see by the enclosed letter, received two days ago from Capt. Bird, which I now send, to give you my opinion of those people. Thirteen have entered into

the Rangers, and many more will enter. As the prisoners are greatly fatigued with travelling so far, some sick and some wounded, I shall defer sending them down, lest it be attended with bad consequences. The remainder, to save provisions, I shall distribute in different farm houses to help in the harvest—in the meantime we shall be able to know His Excellency's pleasure upon the subject, should it be approved to settle them.

In a former letter to the Commander-in-Chief I observed that it would be dangerous having so many prisoners here, but, I then thought those small forts were occupied by a different set of people.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your most obedient most humble servant,

ARENT S. DEPEYSTER.

