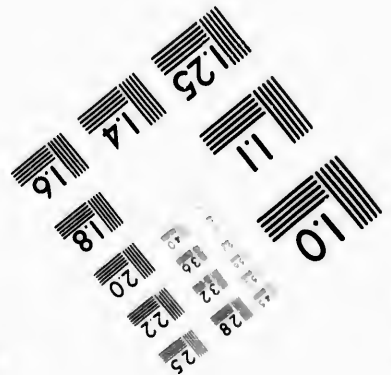
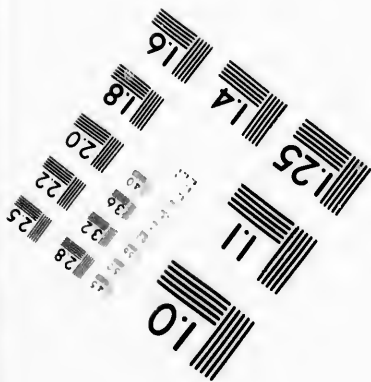
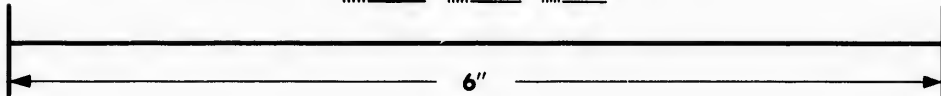
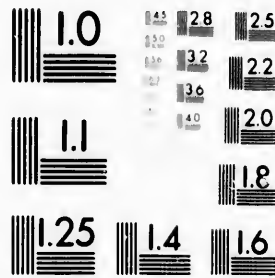


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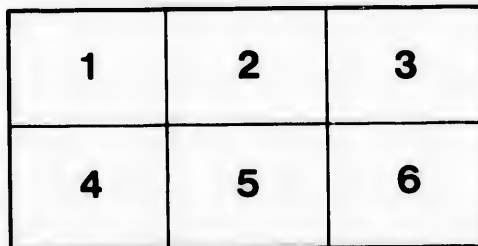
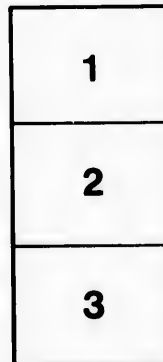
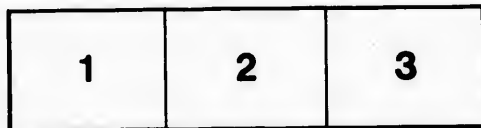
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Indiana Historical Society Pamphlets.

LOUGHERY'S DEFEAT


— AND —

PIGEON ROOST MASSACRE.

WITH INTRODUCTORY SKETCH

BY CHARLES MARTINDALE

INDIANAPOLIS:
THE BOWEN-MERRILL CO., PUBLISHERS.
1888.



INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

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- No. 1. **The Laws and Courts of Northwest and Indiana Territories.** By Daniel Walte Howe. The Bowen-Merrill Co. Indianapolis. 1886. Price, 25 cents.
- No. 2. **The Life and Services of John B. Dillon.** By Gen. John Coburn and Judge Horae P. Biddle. The Bowen-Merrill Co. Indianapolis. 1886. Price, 25 cents.
- No. 3. **The Acquisition of Louisiana.** By Judge Thomas M. Cooley. The Bowen-Merrill Co. Indianapolis. 1887. Price, 25 cents.
- No. 4. **Loughery's Defeat and Pigeon Roost Massacre.** By Charles Martindale. The Bowen-Merrill Co. Indianapolis. 1887. Price, 25 cents.

These pamphlets are printed and sold for the benefit of the Indiana Historical Society. It is the purpose of the Society, to publish, from time to time, other original papers, and to reprint rare and valuable documents relating to the history of the State. With a view to the general circulation of its publications, they will be issued in cheap form, the small price charged for them being for the purpose of defraying the expense of publication.

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Executive Com.

INDIANA HISTORICAL SOCIETY PAMPHLETS.

No. 4.

LOUGHERY'S DEFEAT

AND

PIGEON ROOST MASSACRE,

WITH INTRODUCTORY SKETCH.

BY CHARLES MARTINDALE.

INDIANAPOLIS:
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INTRODUCTION.

Upon the surrender of Post Vincennes to Col. George Rogers Clark, February 24, 1779, that dauntless warrior immediately began planning a campaign for the reduction of Detroit. He says: "Detroit opened full in our view. In the fort at that place there were not more than eighty men—a great part of them invalids—and we were informed that many of the principal inhabitants were disaffected to the British cause. The Indians on our route we knew would now, more than ever, be cool toward the English. * * * We could now augment our forces in this quarter to about four hundred men, as near half the inhabitants of Post Vincennes would join us. Kentucky, we supposed, could immediately furnish two hundred men, as there was a certainty of receiving a great addition of settlers in the spring. With our own stores, which we had learned were safe on their passage, added to those of the British,¹ there would not be a single article wanting for an expedition against Detroit. We privately resolved to embrace the object that seemed to court our acceptance, without delay, giving the enemy no time to recover from the blows they had received; but we wished it to become the object of the soldiery and the inhabitants before we should say anything about it." * * * Early in the month of March "I laid before the officers my plans for the reduction of Detroit, and explained the almost certainty of success, and the probability of keeping possession of it until we could receive succor from the States. * * * In short, the enterprise was deferred until the—of June, when our troops were to rendezvous at Post Vincennes." But when the appointed time came, the troops sent from Virginia under Col. Montgomery numbered only one hundred

¹Three boat loads of goods and provisions, about \$10,000 worth, had been captured by a detachment sent up the Wabash River for that purpose on the day after the surrender.

and fifty, and from Kentucky, instead of three hundred under Col. John Bowman, there came but thirty volunteers under Capt. McGary. Added to this, the paper money with which the expedition was supplied, had so depreciated that it was almost valueless, and the purchase of provisions was impossible. For these reasons the campaign was deferred for the present.¹

In the Spring of 1780, after correspondence with Gov. Jefferson, of Virginia, Col. Clark began to collect stores and prepare boats at the Ohio falls for the expedition against Detroit.² Much was hoped for in Virginia from the favorable disposition of the Canadians and the prestige which the successes of this year in the North and South had given to the Americans among the Indians.³ In the task of preparation, the utmost discouragements were met. In the fall of 1780 there was great distress from lack of provisions at Fort Jefferson on the Mississippi at the mouth of the Ohio, at Kaskaskia and at Vincennes. Dishonest practices by agents and officers were wasting the resources of the State. Disputes as to authority were rife. Respect and confidence in Clark seems about the only thing that held the soldiery in anything like discipline.⁴ The agents of the government were distrusted by the people and their drafts on the Treasury taken with much reluctance. Desertions were constantly going on.⁵ Slow progress was made, and in the meantime the Indians, who were held in friendly relations only by liberal presents, finding the supplies cut off at the frontier posts and being brought over to the interest of the English, began to harry the outlying settlements. In December of 1780, Gov. Jefferson issued an order to the County Lieutenants of the frontier counties of Virginia levying detachments from the militia to join the expedition at the Falls of the Ohio. These orders aroused the most stubborn opposition from the people of those counties and protests were made from Berkeley and Greenbrier Counties which set forth the danger to their inhabitants from Indian incursions if their militia were further weakened by detachments.⁶ The militia

¹Cherck's MS. Memoirs; Dillon's Hist. Ind., Chap. xv.

²Virginia State Papers, Vol. 1, pp. 341-390

³Id. 326.

⁴Letter of Richard Winston to Col. Jno. Todd, Virginia State Papers, Vol. 1 p. 389; Letter of Robt George to Col. G. R. Clark Id. p. 382; also letter of John Williams and Leo Helm, ⁵Id. 383; Id. 396.

⁶Virginia State Papers, Vol. 1 p. 461-468.

men refused to obey the draft. On January 18, 1781, Col. Clark, writing to the Governor of Virginia says: "I have examined your proposed instructions. I don't recollect of anything more that is necessary except the mode of paying the expenses of the garrison at Detroit, in case of success, as supporting our credit among strangers may be attended with great and good consequences, and my former experiences induce me to wish it to be the case where I have the honor to command. I would also observe to your Excellency that I could wish to set out on this expedition free from any reluctance, which I doubt I cannot do without a satisfactory explanation of the treatment of the Virginia delegates in Congress to me, in objecting to an appointment designed for me, which your Excellency cannot be a stranger to. I could wish not to be thought to solicit promotion, and that my duty to myself did not oblige me to transmit these sentiments to you. The treatment I have generally met with from this State hath prejudiced me as far as consistent in her interest and I wish not to be distrusted in the execution of her order by any Continental Colonel that may be in the countries that I have business in, which I doubt will be the case, although the orders of the Commander in Chief is very positive."¹

On February 10th he wrote the Governor of Virginia, setting forth the great lack of arms and his disappointment at the want of men,² and received from Governor Jefferson an encouraging letter notifying him that he had obtained leave from Baron Steuben for Col. J. Gibson to attend as next in command and that with General Washington's recommendation he hoped to have Col. Gibson's regiment attached to Clark's command. A letter written on March 27 to the Governor of Virginia contains the following: "It's a very alarming circumstance to me that if the Frederick, Berkeley and Hampshire militia being excused from the Western service. I make no doubt but that good policy might require it. I suspected it, but six or seven hundred men deducted from two thousand, is very considerable. I shall never think otherways than that the militia of these counties would have marched with cheerfulness, had they not been encouraged to the contrary. Col. Gibson's regiment will make some amends, but far from filling up the blank; per-

¹ Id. p. 411.

² Id. 504.

³ Id. 511.

haps we may do it by volunteers from this quarter. I feel the distress of my country and shall devote myself to its interest. But, Sir, if any misfortunes shall happen, I have the consolation to hope the cause will not be misplaced. My situation is truly disagreeable; the most daring attempts would be agreeable to me was there nothing but death to fear. But more I conceive to be depending at present. To be flung into my situation by a set of men that are not honored with the sentiments of a soldier, is truly disagreeable. I hope these gents alluded to will live to repent of their conduct. Conscious of the rectitude of the orders of Government aggravate the guilt of these persons in my ideas, and cannot refrain from giving those, my sentiments, though it may reflect no honor to me."

Col. Broadhead refusing to allow Col. Gibson's regiment to be detached on this expedition, Clark wrote to General Washington from Fort Pitt, May 20, 1781, asking explicit orders to Col. Broadhead to this end. In his letter he says: "The advantages which must derive to the States from our proving successful, is of such importance that I think deserved greater preparations to insure it. But I have not yet lost sight of Detroit. Nothing seems to threaten us but the want of men. But even should we be able to cut our way through the Indians and find they have no reinforcements at Detroit, we may probably have the assurance to attack it, though our force be much less than proposed, which was two thousand, as defeating the Indians with inconsiderable loss on our side would almost insure us success. Should this be the case, a valuable peace will probably ensue. But on the contrary, if we fall through in our present plans and no expedition should take place, it is to be feared that the consequences will be fatal to the whole frontier, as every exertion will be made by the British party to harass them as much as possible—disable them from giving any succor to our Eastern or Southern forces. The Indian war is now more general than ever. Any attempt to appease them will be fruitless."²

Writing to the Governor of Virginia under date of May 23, he says: "The Continental officers and soldiers of this department, to a man, is anxious for the expedition supposed against the Indians. The country in general wishing it to take place. But too few think of going, and so great a con-

¹Id. p. 507.

² Virginia State Paper, Vol. 2, p. 108.

trast between the people of the two States in this quarter that no method can be taken to force them to war. We are taking every step in our power to raise volunteers. What number we shall get I cant guess. I doubt too few. The disappointment of seven hundred men from Berkeley and Hampshire I am afraid is too great a stroke to recover, as in fact, the greatest part of this country is in subordination neither to Pennsylvania nor Virginia. General Washington informs me that he had received information that Col. Connelly had left New York with a design to make a diversion in the countries to be reinforced by Sir John Johnson in Kanady. I doubt Sir, we shall be obliged to play a desperate game this campaign. If we had the two thousand men first proposed, such intelligence would give me pleasure. By the greatest exertions and your timely supplies of money, we have the boats and provisions expected in this quarter nearly complete. I propose to leave this about the 15th of June if we can imbody a sufficient number of men by that time. I do not yet despair of seeing the proposed object on tolerable terms, although our circumstances is rather gloomy. Colonel Crockett and regiment arrived a few days past, who informed me that a company or two of volunteers might be expected from Frederick and Berkeley. I am sorry we are so circumstanced as to be glad to receive them."

It became apparent by August 1st that it would be impossible to raise the number of men required for the execution of the plans against Detroit. Colonel Clark was greatly disappointed and wrote from Wheeling to the Governor of Virginia, August 4, saying:

"I make no doubt but it was alarm to you that I had not left this country. Whoever undertakes to raise an army in this quarter will find himself disappointed except the law was of greater force and not depending on the wills of the populace. This country calls aloud for an expedition, wishing me to put it in execution, but so strangely infatuated that all methods I have been able to pursue will not draw them into the field. We have made drafts to no purpose. Governor Reed has also written to them to no effect. From the time I found I was to be disappointed in the troops ordered by the Government, I began to suspect the want of men which is now the case when every thing else is prepared." "I could not get Colonel Gibson's regiment, otherwise I should have been gone long since, but had to make up the

¹Id. p. 117.

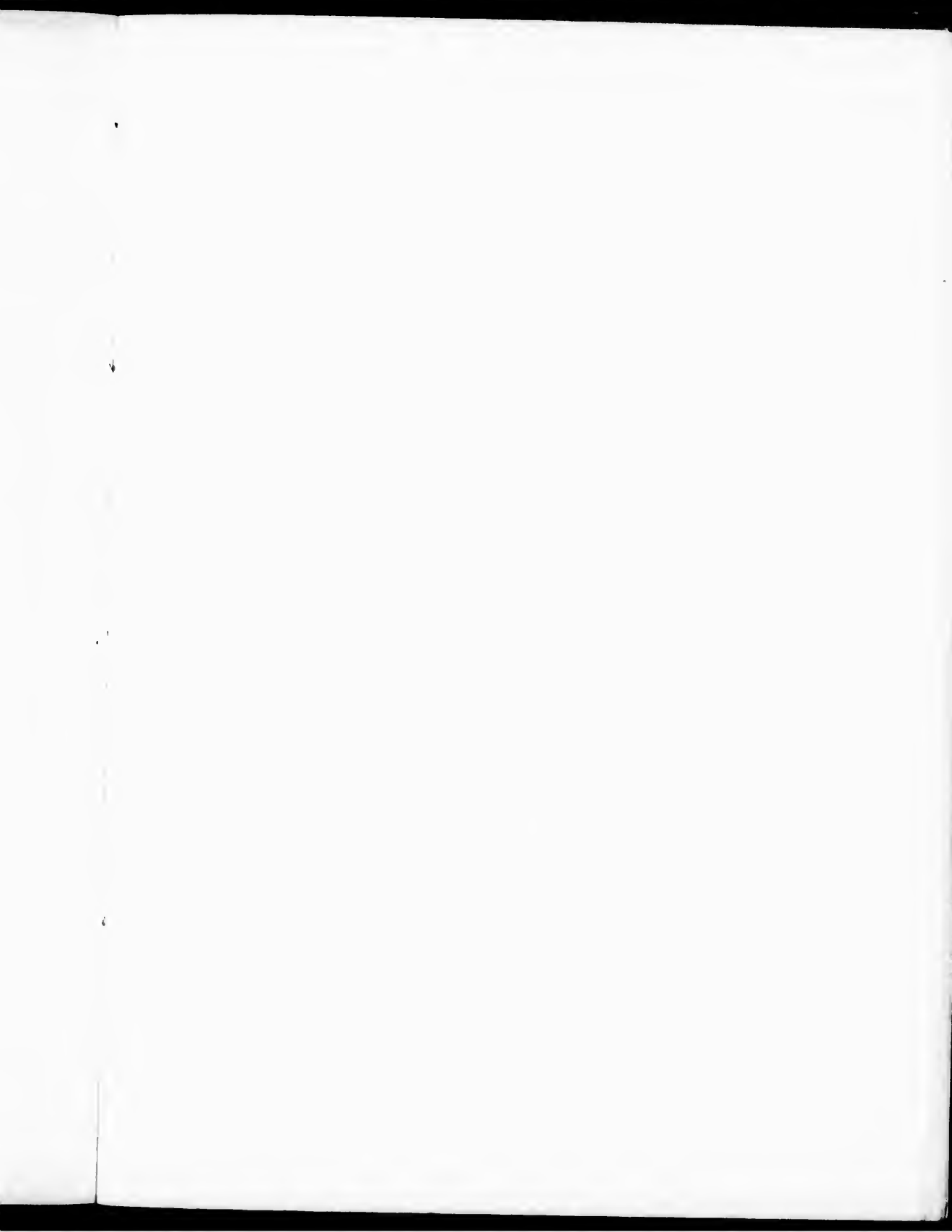
deficiency by volunteers, but finding no argument are sufficient, I determined to quit there leaving no stone unturned by which they might hereafter excuse themselves."

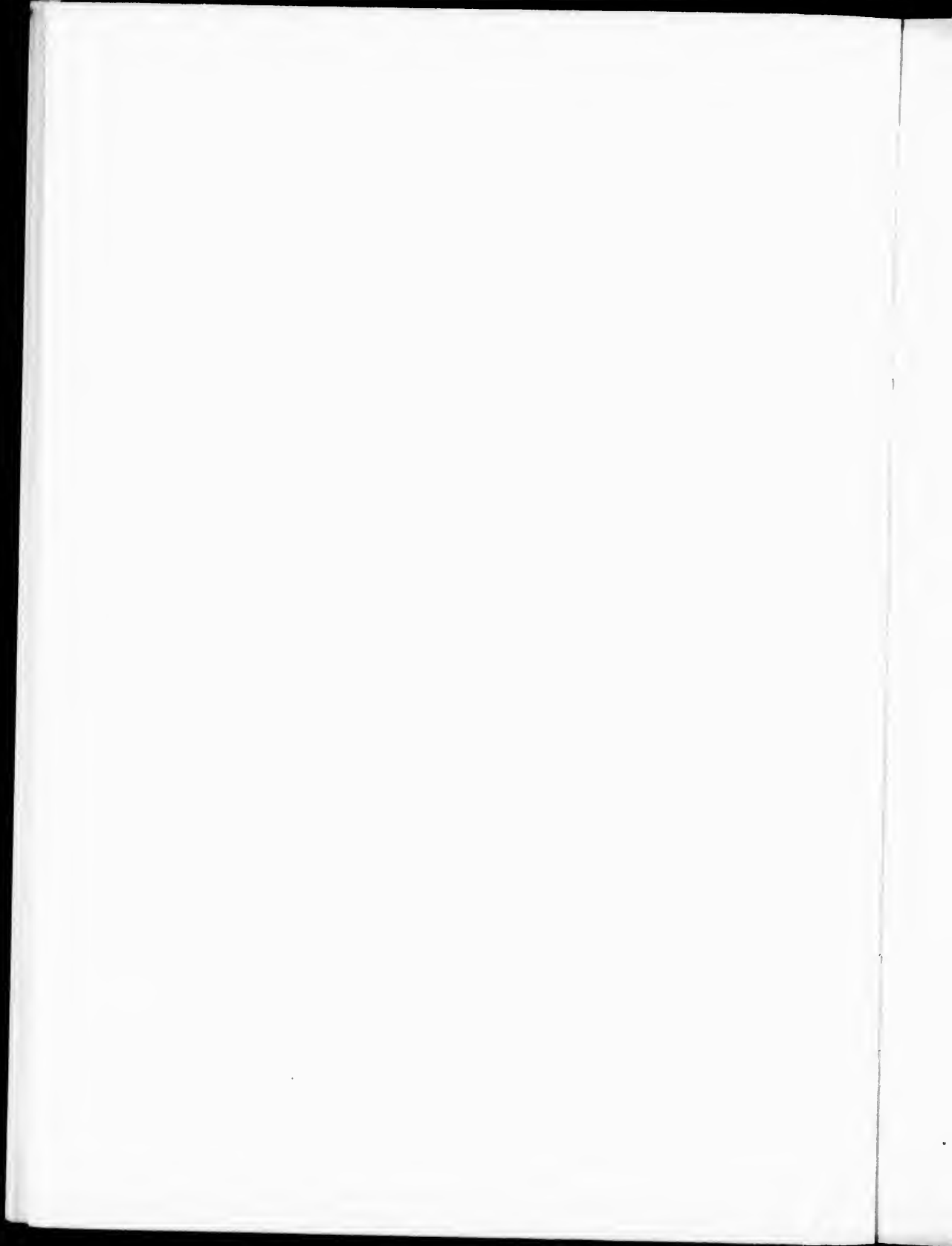
"To save the garrison of Pittsburg from being evacuated, I have been obliged to spare them a considerable quantity of flour, but yet have enough to do something clever had I men. I have relinquished my expectations relative to the plans heretofore laid, and shall drop down the River with what men I have, amounting to about four hundred, consisting of Crockett's regiment, Craig's artillery, volunteers, &c. If I find a prospect of completing my forces in any other country I shall do it and make my strokes according to circumstances. If I find it out of my power to do anything of importance, I shall dispose of the public stores to the greatest advantage and quit all further thoughts of enterprise in this quarter."

"I do not yet condemn myself for undertaking the expedition against Detroit. I yet think had I near the number of men first proposed, should have carried it. I may yet make some strokes among the Indians before the close of the campaign, but at present really to be doubted. I have been at so much pains to enable us to prosecute the first plan that the disappointment is doubly mortifying to me, and I feel for the dreadful consequences that will ensue throughout the frontier if nothing is done. This country already begin to suspect it and to invite me to execute some plans of their own but I shall no longer trust them."

A letter by Major Croghan to Col. Wm. Davis written at Fort Pitt, August 18th, gives the information that "a few days ago Gen. Clarke set out from this country by water with about four hundred men, including officers and Col. Crockett's regiment, flattering himself he would be joined by some more from Kentucky and the Falls of Ohio about half way between this and the Falls. The General expected 1,500 men from this part of the country and is much chagrined at his disappointment, having provision, ammunition, artillery, quartermaster's stores, boats, &c., sufficient for upwards of 2,000 men. Had the country people turned out and gone with him, I have no doubt the people on this side the mountain, in particular, would be sensible of the advantage they must reap by being able to live at their plantations without the dread of being scalped, which is far from being the case at present, few days passing without the Indians doing mischief of this kind."

¹Virginia State Papers, Vol. II p. 204.





"I much fear the General will be disappointed in getting men down the River from Kentucky and the Falls. If so, the State is thrown into an infinity of expense without any advantage, as the few men the General now has is not more than might be necessary to guard the great number of boats, stores, &c., he has with him."

"From every account we have the Indians are preparing to receive him, and if they should attack him in his present situation, either by land or water, I dread the consequences. The reason so few went with him from this place, is owing to the dispute that subsists here between the Virginians and Pennsylvanians respecting the true bounds of the latter, and the General being a Virginian was opposed by the most noted men here of the Pennsylvania party. The people here blame Virginia very much for making them and their lands (which beyond the shadow of a doubt is far out of the true bounds of Pennsylvania) over to Pennsylvania, and I am assured will never be content until the true bounds of Pennsylvania is run. 'Tis true they are going to run what they call a temporary boundary, but so much injustice is done to the State of Virginia and the people who are now in it, and by this scandalous imposition will be forced into Pennsylvania, that nothing but discord will reign until the bounds is run agreeable to the words of the charter of Pennsylvania."

It had been given out that this expedition was against the Indians of the North-west, and the designs on Detroit were kept in the background, but nevertheless, Brant, the Indian Chief, was well informed as to its purpose.² It was Clark's intention to proceed up the Big Miami River and first attack the Shawnee towns on that river. But subsequently he changed his plans and decided to make the Falls of the Ohio his base of operation.

Col. Archibald Loughery or Loughery was the County Lieutenant of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, and upon Clark's requisition he raised and provided with an outfit, principally at the expense of himself and Captain Robert Orr, a party of one hundred and seven mounted volunteers. This company rendezvoused at Carnahan's Blockhouse, eleven miles west of Hannastown, on August 2, 1781, and marched by way of Pittsburg to Fort Henry (Wheeling) where they arrived on the 8th about twelve hours after Col. Clark, with all the men, boats and stores he could gather

¹Id. 345. ²Letter to Lord George Germain, Appendix.

had departed, leaving orders for Col. Loughery to follow and overtake him at the mouth of Little Kanawha. Several days were consumed by Col. Loughery in getting started. In the meantime Clark's men began to desert. Loughery apprehended Lieutenant Baker and sixteen men who were deserting from Clark at Fishing Creek. To prevent desertion Col. Clark was obliged to proceed from the Kanawha, leaving a letter affixed to a pole directing Loughery to follow to the Falls of the Ohio. Loughery's stores and forage gave out at this point and he detached Capt. Shannon with seven men in a small boat to overtake Clark and secure supplies. This detachment had not proceeded far when the Indians, who were carefully watching the expedition, captured Shannon and all of his men but two and also obtained a letter to Col. Clark detailing Loughery's situation. Joseph Brant, with one hundred Indian warriors, lay in wait to attack Clark at the mouth of the Miami River, but Clark passed in the night, and the Indians being afraid of the cannon and the number of men, did not molest him, but concluded to wait for Loughery's party. It is said that the Indians placed the prisoners they had taken in a conspicuous position on the north shore of the Ohio River and promised to spare their lives on condition that they would hail Loughery's party and induce them to land and surrender. However this may have been, at about 10 o'clock on August 24th, Loughery having reached an attractive spot about ten miles below the mouth of the Big Miami, near the present town of Aurora, Dearborn County, Indiana, landed on the north side of the Ohio River in the mouth of a creek which has since been called Loughery's Creek. The Ohio River was very low and a large sandbar extended from the south almost across to the north bank of the river. Col. Loughery's party, wearied with their slow and laborious progress and discouraged by the failure to overtake Clark's army, removed their horses ashore and turned them loose to feed while some of the men cut grass sufficient to keep them alive until they should reach the Falls. A buffalo had been killed and all were engaged in preparing a meal, when the Indians appeared on both sides of the river and began firing from the woods. The soldiers seized their arms and made a defense as long as their ammunition held out. An attempt was made to escape by the boats, but they were so unwieldy and the water so low that the Indians cut them off. Unable to escape or defend themselves, Col. Loughery surrendered. Brant, the

Indian Chief, says thirty-six, including five officers, were killed and sixty-four made prisoners. One or two escaped, but did not reach home for several months afterward. Loughery was tomahawked by a Shawnee Indian after the battle while sitting on a log, and all the wounded who were unable to march were similarly dispatched. The prisoners were marched eight miles up the Miami River to an encampment where the Indians were joined by one hundred white men under command of Capt. Thompson and three hundred Indians under Capt. McKee, both British officers. All of the British and Indians, with Brant's band of warriors, went down against the Kentucky settlements as far as the Falls of the Ohio, leaving a sergeant and eighteen men to guard the prisoners. No attack was made on Clark's army, however. The prisoners were taken to Detroit and sent from there to Montreal.

The disaster to Loughery was the culmination of the misfortunes to this illfated expedition. All thought of accomplishing anything more than the destruction of Indian villages, was abandoned. Nothing of note was done until the fall of 1782, when another expedition was organized and moving rapidly from Wheeling destroyed the large Shawneetowns on the Miami and the British posts as far north as Lake Erie.

Lieutenant Isaac Anderson, who succeeded to the command of Shannon's company after the capture of the latter, has kept a diary of the expedition from the start at Carnahan's Block House, including the fight, captivity and his wonderful escape from Montreal and trip through the wilds of Maine, Connecticut, New York and Pennsylvania to his home. This diary is now in the possession of his son Isaac R. Anderson, who resides at Venice, (Ross P. O.) Ohio, and the diary is also copied in McBride's History of Butler County, Ohio.

There are appended here two accounts of the Pigeon Roost massacre, which seem to give some details not found in Dillon's History of Indiana, worthy of preservation.

THE BRITISH REPORT.

QUEBEC, 23d Oct., 81.

Lord Geo. Germain by the Fleet :

MY LORD—I have the pleasure to acquaint your Lordship that by a late dispatch from Detroit I have an account of an advantage gained by Joseph Brant with an hundred Indians over a division of Colonel Clark's army assembling upon the Ohio for the purpose of destroying the Indian settlements, and it successful in his levies penetrating to Detroit. Joseph having intelligence of his motions, waited for him at the mouth of the Miamis River where he passed in the night and with too great a force for Joseph to attack him, but the next day he fell upon a party of 100 men commanded by a Lieutenant Col. Lockery, 64 of whom he made prisoners, 36, including the Colonel and five other officers, were killed. A reinforcement of a company of rangers and a strong body of Indians penetrated as far as the Falls in hopes of pursuing the blow with success, but Mr. Clark's army were so discouraged by this early defeat that they began to separate, and it is supposed have for this season abandoned their enterprise. Many smaller Indian parties in that quarter have been very successful, and some considerable strokes have been made upon the Mohawk River and Frontiers of Pennsylvania. The vicinity of these, and the perpetual terror and losses of the inhabitants, will I hope operate powerfully in our favor with Vermont, who will experience the happy effects of having their settlements protected, and some inhabitants of the neighboring States begin to retire there for safety. It would be endless and difficult to enumerate to your Lordship the parties that are continually employed upon the back settlements. From the Illinois country to the frontiers of New York there is a continual succession. I must do Colonel Johnson and the officers who have the direction of this service the justice to acquaint your Lordships? that the families I have placed upon Carleton Island, at Niagara and Detroit with a view to cultivation, promise fare to succeed, and I have not a doubt will in a very few years materially contribute as well to the support as to the convenience of those Posts.

I am &c.,

(Signed)

FRED. HALDIMAND.

DIARY OF CAPT. ISAAC ANDERSON.

(Original in possession of I. R. Anderson, Esq., Venice, (Ross P.O.) Ohio)

August 1st, 1781. We met at Col. Carnahan's in order to form a body of men to join Gen. Clark on the expedition against the Indians.

Aug. 2. Rendezvoused at said place.

Aug. 3. Marched under command of Col. Lochery to Maracle's mill about eighty-three in number.

Aug. 4. Crossed the Youghaganian River.

Aug. 5. Marched to Devor's ferry.

Aug. 6. To Raccoon settlement.

Aug. 7. Capt. Mason's.

Aug. 8. To Wheeling Fort and found Clark was started down the river about twelve hours.

Aug. 9. Col. Lochery sent a quartermaster and officer of the horse after him, which overtook him at Middle Island and returned; then started with all our foot troops on seven boats, and our horses by land to Grave Creek.

Aug. 13. Moved down to Fishing Creek; we took up Lient. Baker and sixteen men deserting from Gen. Clark and went that day to middle of Long Beach, where we stayed that night.

Aug. 15. To the Three Islands, where we found Major Craycraft waiting on us with a horse boat. He, with his guard, six men, started that night after Gen. Clark.

Aug. 16. Col. Lochery detached Capt. Shannon with seven men and letter after Gen. Clark and we moved that day to the Little Conaway (Kanawha) with all our horses on board the boats.

Aug. 17. Two men went out to hunt who never returned to us. We moved that day to Buffalo Island.

Aug. 18. To Catfish Island.

Aug. 19. To Bare Banks.

Aug. 20. We met with two of Shannon's men who told us they had put to shore to cook, below the mouth of the Scioto (Scioto) where Shannon sent them and a sergeant out to hunt. When they had got about half a mile in, the wood, they heard a number of guns fire, which they supposed to be Indians firing on the rest of the party, and they immediately took up the river to meet us; but unfortunately the

sergeant's knife dropped on the ground and it ran directly through his foot and he died of the wound in a few minutes. We sailed all night.

Aug. 21. We moved to the Two Islands.

Aug. 22. To Sassafras Bottom.

Aug. 23. Went all night and all day.

Aug. 24. Col. Lochery ordered the boats to land on the Indiana shore, about ten miles below the mouth of the Great Meyamee (Miami) River, to cook provisions and cut grass for the horses when we were fired on by a party of Indians from the bank. We took to our boats expecting to cross the river, and were fired on by another party in a number of canoes in the river, and soon we became a prey to them. They killed the Col. and a number more after they were prisoners. The number of our killed was about forty. They marched us that night about eight miles up the river and encamped.

Aug. 25. We marched eight miles up the Meymee River and encamped.

Aug. 26. Lay in camp.

Aug. 27. The party that took us was joined by one hundred white men under the command of Capt. Thompson and three hundred Indians under command of Capt. McKee.

Aug. 28. The whole of the Indians and white men went down against the settlements of Kentucky, excepting a sergeant and eighteen men which were left to take care of sixteen prisoners and stores that were left there. We lay there until the 15th of September.

Sept. 15, 1781. We started towards the Shawnee towns on our way to Detroit.

Sept. 19. Arrived at Chillecothey, where the Indians took all the prisoners from Capt. Thompson excepting six of us. We lay there until the 26th.

Sept. 26. We marched to Laremes.

Sept. 27. Over the carrying place to the Claize.

Sept. 28. To the Taway village.

Sept. 29. Continued our march.

Sept. 30. Marched all day through swampy ground.

Oct. 1. Arrived at Roche de Bout and rested there eight days.

Oct. 4. Capt. Thompson marched for Detroit and left us with the Mohawks where we lay until the eighth.

Oct. 8. Started in a canoe with the Indians for Detroit and lay at the foot of the rapids all night.

Oct. 9. Got to Stony Point half way to Detroit from the mouth of the Mame (Maumee) river.

Oct. 10. Got to the spring well, four miles from Detroit.

Oct. 11. Taken into Detroit and given up to Major Arent Schuyler De Pester who confined us to the citadel.

Oct. 13. Got into good quarters and were well used; had clothing and liberty of going where we pleased round the town until the fourth of Nov.

Nov. 4. We went on board the sloop Felicity bound for Niagara.

Nov. 5. Lay at anchor in Put in Bay.

Nov. 6. Likewise.

Nov. 7. Set sail with a fair wind.

Nov. 8. Wind ahead.

Nov. 9. Sprung the mast by distress of weather.

Nov. 10. Very stormy weather, lower our sails.

Nov. 11. Put in a Presque Isle Bay.

Nov. 12. Lay in said Harbor.

Nov. 13. Sailed for Fort Erie.

Nov. 14. Went to Batteaux to Fort Schlosser one mile above Niagara Falls.

Nov. 15. Went over the carrying place to Niagara Fort and put on board the Seneca.

Nov. 16. Set sail for Carleton Island.

Nov. 17. Arrived at said place.

Nov. 19. Put in the guard house at said place.

Nov. 20. Started in Batteaux for Montreal.

Nov. 21. Continued on our journey.

Nov. 22. Lay at Oswegatchie.

Nov. 23. Crossed the Long Saut.

Nov. 24. Arrived at Coteau du Lac.

Nov. 25. Crossed the Cascades to the Isle of Berrot.

Nov. 26. Was beat by wind up Chateaugay Island.

Nov. 27. Crossed Chateaugay river and went to Caughnawaga, an Indian village and crossed the river St. Lawrence with much difficulty and lay at La Chine all night.

Nov. 28. Drew provisions and were insulted by drunken Indians; went down to Montreal and were delivered to Gen. Spike who put us in close confinement.

Nov. 29. Removed to the long house in St. Marc parish and remained there until May 26, 1782.

May 26, '82. Sealed the pickets about 2 o'clock in the day time and crossed the river at Longueil church and got

into the woods immediately, and steered for Sorel River; crossed it that night and went into a Frenchman's barn and killed two lambs and took two horses and rode all night till day break, then we made a halt, skinned and barbecued the lambs.

May 27. Started with our horses, got them about five miles and were obliged to turn them out of hand on account of swampy ground and steered an east course all day, and came to the river Missisque, crossed it on a raft; marched about 2 miles after dark and encamped.

May 28. Marched about daybreak. Had gone one mile when we heard the drums beat the reveille from a block house on said river. We steered that day southeast expecting to strike Heason's road but found it not. We encamped that night on a very high mountain.

May 29. Found a large quantity of snow on said mountain. Crossed the river Missisque and another mountain that day and encamped.

May 30. Crossed three mountains and camped.

May 31. Came to a level country and crossed four creeks, one very difficult to cross, that emptied into Lake Memphremagog. We were obliged to camp on bad ground that night and our provisions were done.

June 1. Our provisions being done we were obliged to kill our dog and eat him, lost our compass but Providence favored us with clear weather that day and part of the next. We sterred our old course, southeast and encamped.

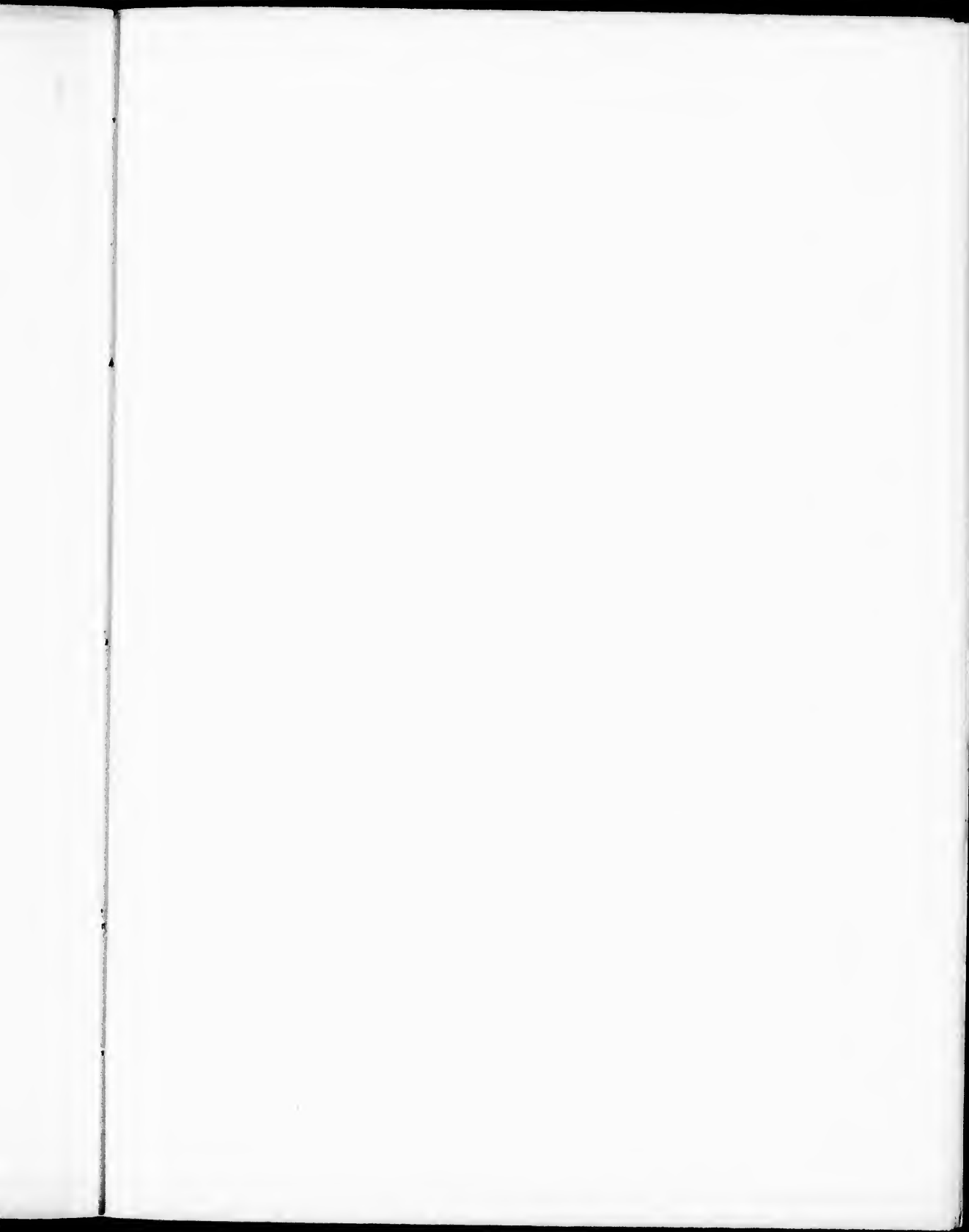
June 2. Struck a branch of the Passumpsic river and kept down it, and in the evening made a raft, expecting to go by water but was disappointed by drift wood. We encamped in the forks of said river all night.

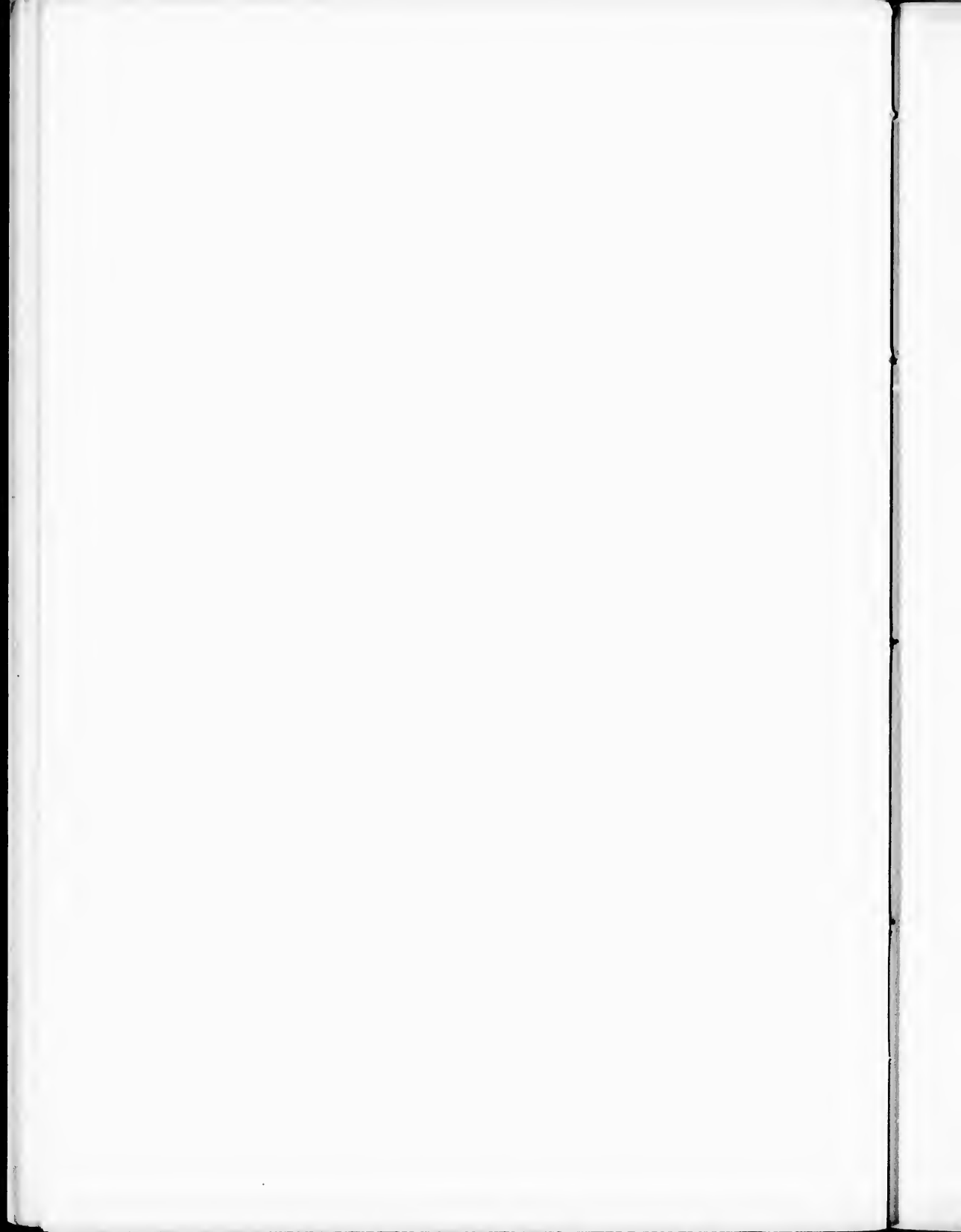
June 3. Kept our old course and struck an east branch of said river. We kept down it by reason of dark weather. We encamped that night on dead running water.

June 4. Made two rafts and never got any service of them, by reason of rapid running water, and kept our old course that day and encamped.

June 6. Continued our march and struck the settlement of Cohorse on said river, that evening at one Smith's. We came down the Connecticut that night and crossed below the forks where we staid all night.

June 7. Came past Ebr. Willoughby and to Richard Salmon's where we stayed all night 12 miles from where we struck the settlement.





June 8. Came to Brig. Gen. Bayley's and rested there two days.

June 10. Crossed the river to his son's, Ephr. Bayley's, where we got a pair of shoes, and went to James Woodward's, Esquire, where we stayed all night.

June 11. To Capt. Ladd's, 21 miles.

June 12. To Col. Johnson's, two miles.

June 13. To Capt. Clement's on our way to Pennysuik, 11 miles.

June 14. To Emerson's, Esq., 21 miles.

June 15. To Capt. Favor's, 19 miles.

June 16. To Col. Garrish's, 14 miles.

June 17. To Col. Walker's in Pennycuik, 12 miles, where the general court was. There we made application for money and next day got a little.

June 18. Went to Capt. Todd's, 11 miles.

June 19. To Capt. Walker's where we eat dinner; and left the Merrimac river, and got on the great road for Fishkill's to headquarters, and stayed that night at the sign of the Lion, 30 miles.

June 20. To Mr. Holton's four miles from Lancaster in the Bay State, 25 miles.

June 21. To Worcester and from there to Mr. Sergeant's, where we stayed three nights, and got two pair of trowsers made.

June 24. To Benj. Cotten's 35 miles.

June 25. To Springfield and crossed the Connecticut river and came to Mr. Eausee's in Connecticut province 32 miles.

June 26. To Mr. Camp's in Washington town, 40 miles.

June 27. Came past Bull's works and into York province to Thos Storm's, Esq., where we lay all night.

June 28. Came to Fishkill's landing 15 miles and crossed the North river to Newberg to headquarters expecting to get a supply of money, but his Excellency was gone up the river to Albany and we could not obtain any. From thence to New Windsor, 2 miles, where we met with a friend, but no acquaintance, who lent us money to carry us to Philadelphia, which was a great favor. We came that night to John Brouster's 11 miles.

June 29. To Mr. Snyder's tavern, Jersey province, 32 miles.

June 30. Came through Hackettstown and came to Mr. Haslet's, 27 miles.

July 1. Through Phillipsburg and from there we crossed

the Delaware river at Howell's ferry and got into Pennsylvania to Wm. Bennett's in Buck county, 43 miles and 27 from Philadelphia.

July 2. Came to Philadelphia 27 miles and stayed there until the 4th.

July 4. Started for Carlisle about 3 o'clock in the afternoon and came to the Sorrel House, 13 miles.

July 5. To Capt. Mason's, 42 miles.

July 6. Came through Lancaster and from thence to Middletown where we lay all night, 37 miles.

July 7. Crossed the Susquahanna river and came to Carlisle about 1 o'clock, 26 miles and rested three nights.

July 10. Started and came through Shippensburg to Capt. Thos. Campbell's 36 miles.

July 11. Rested at said Campbell's.

July 12. To Mr. Welch's about 5 miles.

July 13. To crossing Juniata 28 miles.

July 14. Came through Bedford to Arthur McGaughey's, 21 miles.

July 15. To Loud's in the Glades, 32 miles.

July 16. To Col. Campbell's, 28 miles.

ARCHIBALD LOUGHERY.

[To accompany Bill House of Representatives No. 611.]

JANUARY 20, 1847.

Mr. Blanchard from the Committee on Public Lands made the following.

REPORT:

The Committee on Public Lands, to whom was referred the claims of Jane Thompson and Elizabeth McBrier, of Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, make the following report:

That the Commonwealth of Virginia, on the second day of January, 1781, yielded to the Congress of the United States, for the benefit of said States, all right, title and claim which the said commonwealth had to the territory northwest of the river Ohio, subject to the conditions annexed to the said

act of cession : which said act of cession, with the conditions annexed, the Congress of the United States accepted, among which conditions was the following: "That a quantity, not exceeding one hundred and fifty thousand acres of land promised by the State of Virginia, should be allowed and granted to the then Colonel (now General) George Rogers Clark, and to the officers and soldiers of his regiment who marched with him when the posts of Kaskaskias and St. Vincents were reduced, and to the officers and soldiers that have since been incorporated into the said regiment : to be laid off in one tract, the length of which not to exceed double the breadth, in such place on the northeast side of the Ohio as a majority of the officers shall choose; and to be afterwards divided among the said officers and men in due proportion according to the laws of Virginia."

The committee further report, that it appears by the affidavit of credible witnesses that Colonel Archibald Loughery, father of the above-named claimants, (which affidavits are hereto annexed and made part of this report) some time during the summer of 1781 raised several companies of volunteers of which he was chosen commander, for the purpose of joining the forces of General George Rogers Clark in the expedition against the Mohawk and Seneca Indians, inhabiting the country now belonging to the State of Ohio. That in August, 1781, he marched with his men to Wheeling, Ohio, expecting to join the forces under said General Clark, but when he and his men arrived at Wheeling they found General Clark had left that place a few days before they arrived but had left boats for Colonel Loughery and his men to follow them. That they took the boats thus left for them, but some where near the mouth of the Big Miami river, Colonel Loughery and his men landed to cook and eat some food, and were attacked by a large body of Indians, and the said Loughery and a number of his men were killed and the remainder taken prisoners by the Indians, and never joined the forces under General Clark as was intended.

The committee, therefore, report that, upon the above state of facts, the heirs of the said Colonel Archibald Loughery are entitled to the same quantity of bounty land as if their father had actually joined the forces under General George Rogers Clark.

PENNSYLVANIA,
WESTMORELAND COUNTY. } ss.

Personally appeared before the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for said county, James Kean, who being duly sworn according to law, upon his solemn oath doth depose and say: That sometime in the summer of seventeen hundred and eighty-one, volunteers were raised in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of joining an expedition at that time making against the Mohawk, Seneca, and other tribes of Indians; that said volunteers were to march in the country now composing the State of Ohio; that the companies in Westmoreland County were under the command of Colonel Archibald Loughery, and were composed of upward of a hundred men under the command of said colonel. This deponent was attached to a company of rangers under Captain Thomas Stokely; that they had volunteered to march under the command of General George Rogers Clark on the expedition; that Colonel Loughery marched his men to Wheeling, where this deponent understood they were to join General Clark. On the arrival of the troops there, they found that General Clark had left there four days before, but had left four or five boats behind to carry on Colonel Loughery and his men. From this place Colonel Loughery sent a messenger (Richie Wallace) after General Clark; he brought word that Clark would wait for them at the mouth of some creek, the name of which is not remembered by deponent. Colonel Loughery and his companies embarked in the boats left for them at Wheeling by General Clark, and arrived on that or the next day at the mouth of the creek. On their way down they took sixteen deserters from the troops of General Clark, and carried them along back. On their arrival at the creek they found General Clark and his troops had left. Colonel Loughery then proceeded with his men after Clark in the boats. On the 21st or 24th of August, 1781, they landed on the north bank of the Ohio, about ten miles below the mouth of the Big Miami river, for the purpose of cooking some victuals; the river was then low; there was a sand-bar that reached into the river from the south side. As they were kindling their fires, the Indians commenced an attack from an upper bank. Colonel Loughery ordered his troops to the boats, to pass over to the sand-bar; as soon as they embarked and commenced moving over, a large body of Indians rushed from the woods on the bar and prevented a landing or making an escape, when the colonel ordered us to surrender. There were about thirty men killed in the fight on the side of the

whites. Within an hour or two after the fight, this deponent understood Colonel Loughery was killed by a Shawnee Indian as he was sitting on a log: deponent within that time saw the scalp of the colonel in the hands of an Indian: the peculiar color of the hair caused deponent to know the scalp.

JAMES KEAN, his x mark.

Sworn and subscribed before me this 25th August, 1843.

W. McWILLIAMS.

I do certify that I am acquainted with James Kean, the foregoing deponent, and that he is a man of credibility, and that full credit is given to his testimony as such.

Witness my hand and seal this 25th August, A. D. 1843.

W. McWILLIAMS. { L. S. }

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA. }
WESTMORELAND COUNTY. } ss.

I, David Fullwood, prothonotary of the court of common Pleas of the county of Westmoreland, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify that W. McWilliams, Esq., before whom the foregoing deposition was made, and whose name, in his own proper handwriting, is to the above certificate appended, was then, and now is, an acting justice of peace in and for said county of Westmoreland, duly commissioned and appointed, and to all whose official acts and deeds full faith and credit are of right due.

In testimony whereof I have hereto set my hand, and affixed the seal of said court at Greensburg, the twenty-fifth day of August, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-three.

DAVID FULLWOOD, Prot.

PENNSYLVANIA. }
BUTLER COUNTY. } ss.

Personally appeared before me, a justice of the peace in and for the county of Butler, William Christie, and after being duly sworn according to law, deposeth and saith that he was well acquainted with Colonel Archibald Loughery, of Westmoreland County, and his wife Mary, and that he

was well acquainted with their two reputed daughters, Jane Loughery and Elizabeth Loughery, and that said Jane was married to Samnel Thompson of said county of Westmoreland, and that Elizabeth was married to David McBrier of the same county. And further saith not.

WILLIAM CHRISTIE.

Sworn and subscribed before me, this the 9th day of March, 1844.

JOHN BREWSTER, J. P.

I do certify that I am acquainted with William Christie, the foregoing deponent, and that he is a man of credibility, and that full credit is given to his testimony as such.

Given under my hand and seal, this the 9th day of March, 1844.

JOHN BREWSTER, J. P. { L. S. }

BUTLER COUNTY, }
STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA. } ss.

I, Jacob Mechlin, Jr., prothonotary of the court of common pleas in and for the county of Butler, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do by these presents, certify that John Brewster, Esq., before whom the foregoing certificate was taken, and who has thereunto, in his own proper handwriting subscribed his name, was at the time of taking such certificate, and now is, an acting justice of the peace in and for the said county, duly commissioned and sworn, to all whose acts, as such, due faith and credit are, and of right ought to be given throughout the United States and elsewhere.

{ L. S. } In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court at Butler, in the said county, this the 9th day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-four.

Attest:

JACOB MECILIN, JR.,
Prothonotary.

PENNSYLVANIA. }
 WESTMORELAND COUNTY. } ss.

Personally appeared before me the subscriber, a justice of the peace in and for said county, James Chambers, who being duly sworn according to law upon his solemn oath doth depose and say; that I was taken prisoner by the Indians in June, seventeen hundred and eighty-one, and taken to Detroit; and that while there Ezekiel Lewis, with several others, were brought prisoners to Detroit, and stated to said deponent that they had been taken prisoners with Colonel Archibald Loughery who was killed by the Indians. Said deponent was acquainted with Colonel Loughery, and his family consisted of a wife and two daughters—Jane, who was afterward married to Samuel Thompson, since deceased, and Elizabeth, who was afterwards married to David McBrier, since deceased—who now reside in Washington township, Westmoreland county, and State of Pennsylvania. And further saith not.

JAMES CHAMBERS.

Sworn and subscribed before me, March 6th, 1844.

ALEXANDER THOMPSON.

I do certify that I am acquainted with James Chambers the foregoing deponent, and that he is a man of credibility, and that full credit is given to his testimony as such. Witness my hand and seal, this the 6th day of March, A. D., 1844.

ALEX. THOMPSON. { L. S. }

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA.)
 WESTMORELAND COUNTY.) ss.

I, David Fullwood, prothonotary of the court of common pleas for the county of Westmoreland, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, do hereby certify that Alexander Thompson, before whom the foregoing deposition was made, and whose name in his own proper handwriting, is to the within certificate appended, was then, and now is, an acting justice of the peace in and for the county of Westmoreland, duly

commissioned and appointed, and to all whose official acts and deeds full faith and credit are of right due.

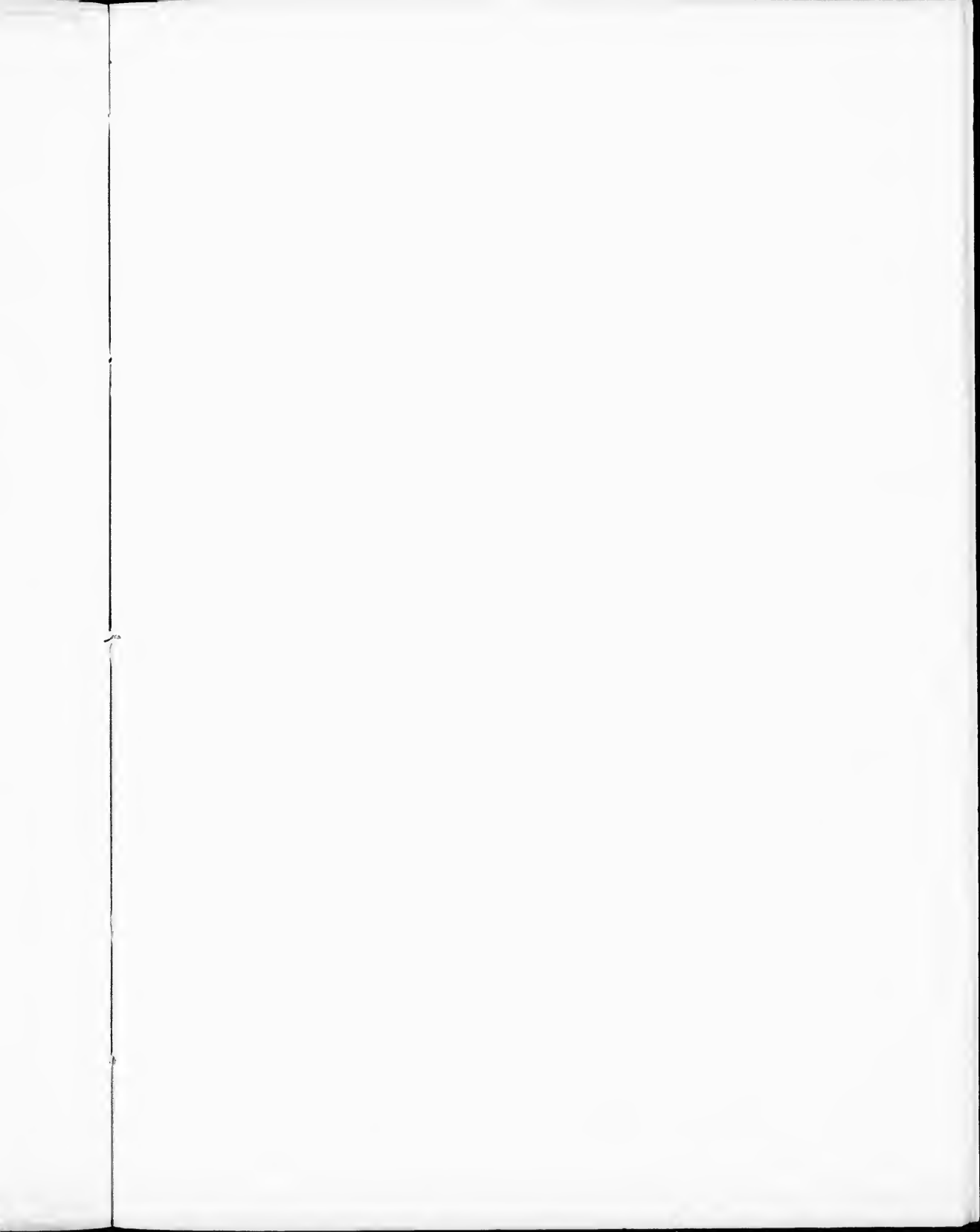
{ L. S. } In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said court at Greensburg, the fourteenth day of March, in the year of our Lord, one thousand eight hundred and forty-four.

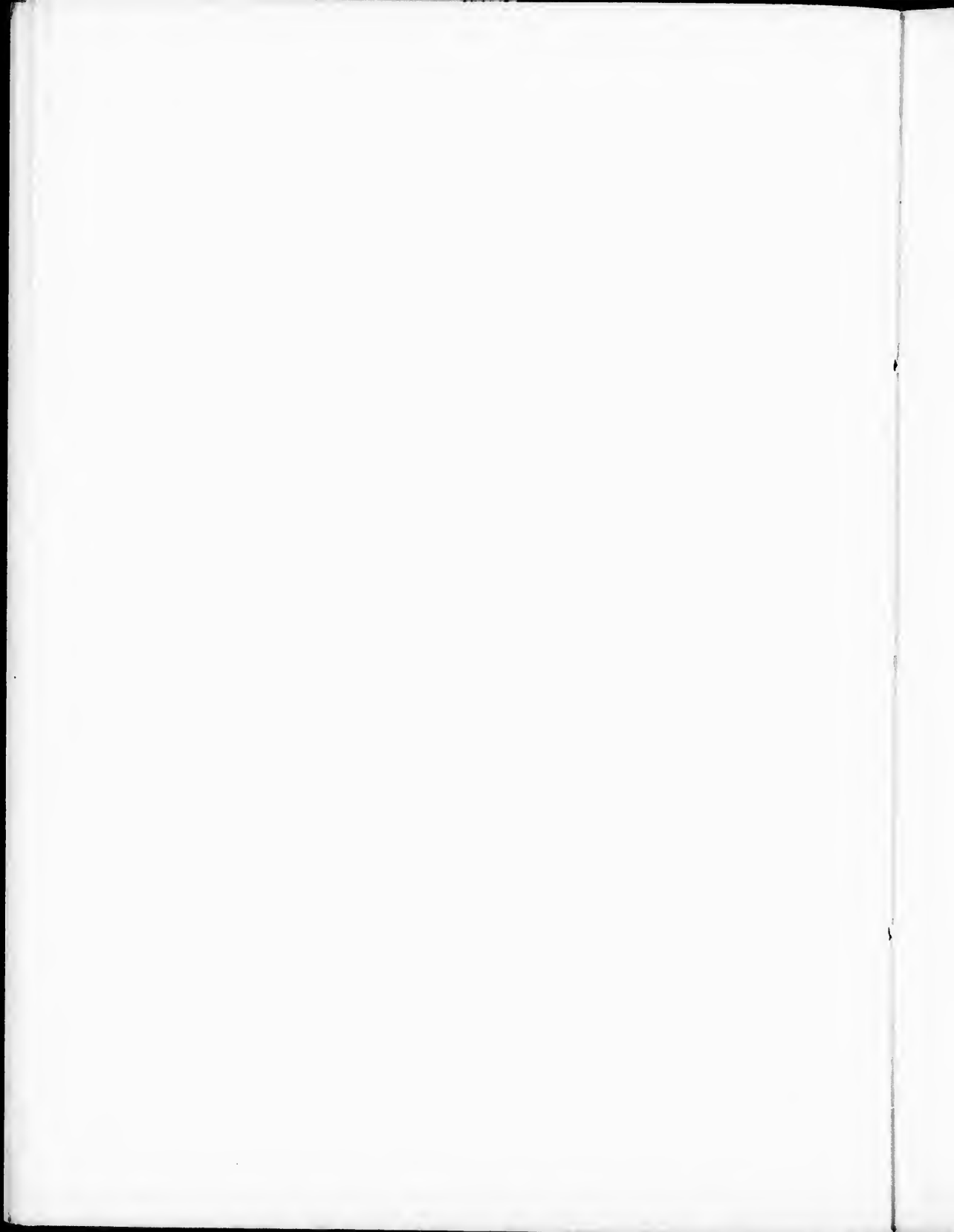
DAVID FULLWOOD,

Prothonotary.

PENNSYLVANIA, }
ARMSTRONG COUNTY, } ss.

Personally appeared before the subscriber a justice of the peace in and for said county, Ezekiel Lewis, a resident of the county of Armstrong, Pennsylvania, who being duly sworn according to law, upon his solemn oath doth depose and say: That, sometime in the summer of seventeen hundred and eighty-one, volunteers were raised in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania, for the purpose of joining an expedition at that time making against the Mohawk, Seneca, and other tribes of Indians: that said volunteers were to march in the country now composing the State of Ohio; that the companies in Westmoreland were put under the command of Archibald Loughery, then a resident of Westmoreland County, who commanded said companies as Colonel, and was received and acknowledged by them as their colonel in command: the troops rendezvoused on *Sewickley* [Sewickley?] or Jacob Swamps, Westmoreland County. Colonel Loughery had, when he started from the place of rendezvous, upwards of eighty men: the companies composing Colonel Loughery's command were commanded by Captain Robert Orr and William Campbell. I was under the command of Captain William Campbell. Deponent says they marched from the place of rendezvous, he thinks, to McKeesport, on the Monongahela river and descended said river to Pittsburg; Captain Stockley joined the command of Colonel Loughery, some place, before we got to Wheeling, (dont recollect the place particularly); from Pittsburg we traveled by land to Wheeling, where we embarked in boats and started down the Ohio river to join General Clark; in one or two days we stopped at the mouth of a creek where we expected to meet General Clark; when we arrived there, General Clark had gone on down the river; on our way down the river we took some deserters from





General Clark's command and carried them with us; Colonel Loughery proceeded on down the river, intending to overtake General Clark, until the 24th August, 1781, about 9 or 10 o'clock; we landed on the north bank of the Ohio for the purpose of cooking breakfast; we had killed a buffalo the evening before; where we landed was near the mouth of the Big Miami. As we were kindling the fires, the Indians commenced an attack upon us; there were about forty of the whites killed and the rest all taken prisoners, together with Colonel Loughery and all his officers; in about two hours after we were taken, one of the Indians tomahawked Colonel Loughery sitting on a log; I saw him after he was killed, and his scalp was taken off; deponent saith he had been intimately acquainted with Colonel Loughery for some years before the time of the campaign spoken of; knew he had a wife and some children: does not know how many. And further saith not.

EZEKIEL LEWIS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me, 11th March, 1844.

JOHN R. JOHNSTON.

Justice of the Peace

We do certify that we have been intimately acquainted with Ezekiel Lewis, the foregoing deponent, for the last twenty-five years, and that he is a man of truth and veracity, and that he is so acknowledged in the neighborhood in which he was raised since the time we have been acquainted with him.

Witness my hand and seal, 11th March, 1844.

JOHN R. JOHNSTON.

Justice of the Peace.

ROBERT ORR.

{ L. S. }

STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA. }
ARMSTRONG COUNTY. } *set.*

I, James Douglass, prothonotary of the court of common pleas in and for said county, do certify that John R. Johnston, esquire, before whom the within deposition was taken, was, at the time of taking the same, an acting Justice of the peace in and for said county, duly elected, commissioned and

sworn, to all whose official acts as such, full faith and credit are due and of right ought to be given, as well throughout the county aforesaid as elsewhere; and that his signature thereto is genuine and in his proper handwriting.

L. S.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said county at Kittanning, the 11th day of March, in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and forty-four.

J. DOUGLASS, Prothonotary.

From reports of Committees, 2nd Sess., 29th Cong. No. 30.

Same Report and affidavits made Reports Coms. 1st Sess. 35 Cong. Vol. II, 289. April 17, 1858. [Bill H. R. No. 504.]

AN ACCOUNT OF PIGEON ROOST MASSACRE,

BY JUDGE I. NAYLOR.*

The war of 1812 forms an important era in American History. At this eventful period, I lived at my father's home in Clark County, then Indiana Territory, near Charlestown, three miles from the Ohio river. Many of the citizens of this county having served as volunteers under Gen. Harrison on the Tippecanoe campaign, a few months prior to the declaration of war, had imbibed a spirit of military enthusiasm, and were animated by feelings of hostility towards Great Britain and her savage allies. They had hailed the "Declaration of War," as a second "Declaration of Independence," and had manifested their approbation of this act of the National Legislature by rejoicing and illuminations.

Under the influence of these feelings and this spirit of military ardor, in the latter part of August a company of

*Isaac Naylor was born in Rockingham County, Virginia, in 1790. He was the son of John and Elizabeth Naylor of an excellent family on both sides. His mother was the only sister of James, John and Charles Beggs, who were prominent in Indiana Territorial and State affairs. His parents moved to Charlestown, Indiana, when he was still a child. In 1817 he was admitted to the bar. He was in the militia service of the Indiana Territory from 1813 to 1814 inclusive, and fought at the battle of Tippecanoe. In 1826 he married Catherine Anderson, daughter of Captain Robert Anderson of Revolutionary fame. He moved to Crawfordsville in 1833, and was in 1837 elected Judge of the twelfth circuit, and served until 1852. In 1860 he was elected Judge of the Court of Common Pleas, retiring to private life in 1868. He died at Crawfordsville Indiana, April 26, 1873.

mounted riflemen, commanded by Capt. Pittman marched to Vincennes for the defence of the western portion of the Territory.

About this time, we learned that Gen. Hull had disgracefully surrendered his gallant army to the British General as prisoners of war. The news of this event passed through the Territory like an electric shock, inspiring all with tearful forebodings of Indian depredations and indiscriminate slaughter of the inhabitants along the line of our frontier.

Our anticipations of impending evil were soon realized. A simultaneous attack was made by the Indians at many points of our frontier settlements. At sunset, about the first of August, some eight or ten Indians made an attack on what was called the Pigeon Roost settlement, fifteen miles from Charlestown, and in one brief hour killed about twenty-three persons, including men, women and children, some of whom were consumed in their homes where they were murdered. But one house was successfully defended. This was the house of Mr. Collings, the father of Zebulon Collings, Esq., who has written a more specific and enlarged account of this massacre.

One of the sons of Mr. Collings was at work in a field, and was mortally wounded before he could reach his father's dwelling. He was found in a day or two in a flax house, and died shortly afterwards.

After scalping and mangling their victims in a most horrible manner, the Indians then plundered and set fire to the houses and consumed them to ashes.

I heard the news of this mournful event about 10 o'clock in the morning of the next day after it had occurred, and having my rifle, powder and bullets in order in thirty minutes I was on my horse marching toward the Pigeon Roost. I was soon in company with many mounted riflemen whom I found on the road. We arrived at the ill-fated spot about 2 p. m., our company having increased to the number of two or three hundred mounted riflemen.

Oh, what a mournful scene of desolation, carnage and death met our vision, as we beheld the smoking ruins of log-cabins and the mangled bodies of men, and women, and children, their once happy inmates!! I had seen the Tippecanoe battle-fields strewn with dead and dying soldiers. They had fallen in deadly strife with a savage foe whom they had conquered. They had fallen in the soldier's costume,

a soldier's armor. They were entitled to a soldier's grave. Not so in the Pigeon Roost massacre. Here all were doomed to indiscriminate slaughter, from the suckling babe to the hoary headed grand-mother and grand-sire. Neither age, nor sex, nor beauty, nor innocence could stay the hand of the merciless savage.

The Pigeon Roost settlement was confined to less than a section of land. It was a fertile spot in the midst of surrounding sterility. Its fertility was due to the roosting of pigeons there for a long series of years. It was detached from the main settlement by an intervening distance of five miles.

A Mrs. Beal, whose husband was a volunteer in Captain Pitman's company at Vincennes, hearing the yells of the Indians, retired from her log-cabin, with her two infants, to a sink hole in a cornfield, and remained there till nine or ten o'clock at night, when she left her hiding place and traveled a lonely path to the main settlement, where she arrived in safety with her children, at two o'clock the next morning, exhibiting a presence of mind and a degree of moral courage highly honorable to female character.

About this time an attack was made on Fort Harrison by a thousand or twelve hundred Indians. The garrison, consisting of a company of U. S. Infantry was commanded by Capt Zachary Taylor, now Major General Taylor commanding the U. S. Army in Mexico. The Fort was most gallantly and successfully defended, and after a siege of five days the Indians retired. At three o'clock in the afternoon we found the Indians' trail and pursued it till dark, and then encamped. Finding that the Indians had left the Pigeon Roost early in the morning, we returned home. In two or three days a large number of brave Kentuckians came to our assistance. They were all mounted riflemen, anxious to avenge the death of those unfortunate inhabitants who had been murdered at Pigeon Roost, and they were joined by a large number of Indiana mounted riflemen, who commenced an expedition against the Delaware Towns, located on the west branch of White river. In attempting a military organization, the expedition failed through the ambition of a few men who desired to have the command of the troops. We then dispersed and retired to our homes, finding a general panic among the people, many of whom had left their homes and gone to Kentucky.

The court house at Charlestown was converted into a fort

for the protection of the town and its vicinity. Forts were erected all along the line of our frontier settlements. They were garrisoned by the militia of the Territory, whose duty it was to range from one fort to the other, until the spring of 1813, when the U. S. Rangers went into service. In the early part of March, 1813, the Indians killed a Mr. Huffman, wounded his wife, and took his grand-son prisoner in day light, in sight of one of the forts, eight miles from Charlestown.

The preceding is but a brief and imperfect sketch of the war scenes of 1812 and '13 as they appeared in a portion of Indiana.

PIGEON-ROOST MASSACRE

A. W. TOBIAS, IN MADISON COURIER.

Pigeon Roost was the name of a small settlement formed in 1809, and was so called from the innumerable number of pigeons that roosted in that vicinity. It was situated five miles south of Scottsburg, the present county-seat of Scott, and near a beautiful stream that bears the memorable name until this day. At the time of the massacre most of the men were away from home. In the afternoon of Sept. 3, 1812, Ellis Payne and a Mr. Collings, while out bee-hunting one and a half miles from the present site of Vienna, were surprised and killed by a party of Shawnee warriors. Scalping their victims, they hastened toward the settlement, which they reached about sundown. In one short hour one man, five women and sixteen children were struck dead by the ruthless tomahawk of the fiendish savages. Among the killed were Henry Collings and wife, Mrs. Payne and her eight children, Mrs. Collings and her seven children, Mrs. John Norris, her only child and aged mother-in-law—for the aged were spared no more than the infant. Mrs. Biggs concealed herself and children in a sink-hole, until the Indians became busily engaged in burning and plundering, when she fled, and succeeded in reaching the residence of her brother. John Collings, son of William E. Collings, had just caught a horse to go after the cows, when he saw an Indian approaching in a threatening attitude. He dropped the rein and fled, pursued by the savage, who was gaining on him, when he heard the report of his father's rifle, and saw the savage fall with the blood streaming from his breast. He succeeded in reaching the house in safety. There was in the house: William E. Collings (whom the Indians well knew, and from his unerring aim named Long Knife), his two children, John and Lydia, and Captain Norris. They kept the Indians back until about dark. They knew that as soon as

it was dark enough for the Indians to approach the house without being seen, they would set fire to it, and burn them alive. They therefore decided to risk the peril of escape. Lydia went first, then her brother John, followed by Norris, and lastly, "Long Knife." As the latter was passing the corn-crib an Indian fired at him. He immediately raised his gun to return the fire when he found that the ball fired by the savage had broken the lock of his gun. He hallooed to Norris to bring him the other gun, but Norris was like the Irishman, "He had a brave heart, but cowardly pair of legs," and they carried him away, leaving Collings to fight the Indians alone with a broken gun. When they crowded him too close he would raise his gun and pretend that he was going to fire, and thus frighten them back; for they knew, from the many shooting-matches in which he came out second to none, that it was folly to stand before his aim. In this way he reached the corn field, under cover of which he escaped. After plundering the houses the Indians set fire to them and most of the dead bodies being within the houses were thus consumed. However, some of the children were pierced by sharp sticks and left sitting against trees. Their horrible deed accomplished, the Indians started northward. A large force of Clark County militia were soon gathered from the vicinity of Charleston, which reached the scene of carnage, while the smoking remains of the cabins and charred bodies presented the most horrible spectacle they had ever witnessed. They immediately pursued the savages to the Muscatatuck, which they found so much swollen that they could not effect a crossing, and were compelled to give up the pursuit. They then returned and buried the remains of the victims in two graves, about one hundred yards east of the J. M. & I. railroad, and near what is since known as the Pigeon-roost or Sodom Cemetery. At present there is nothing to show where the graves are, except three or four rough stones and a large sassafras tree, which is said to have witnessed the event, but is now thought to be entirely dead.

