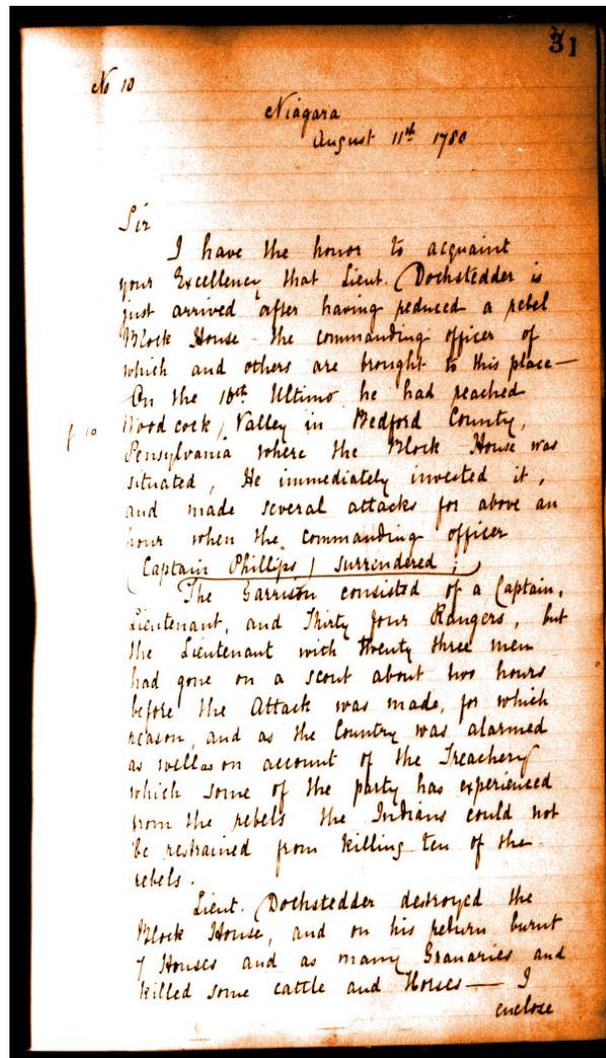


This is NewsLetter Issue No. One ~ For the year 2020

After Having Reduced A Rebel Block House...

On 11 August 1780, a British Lieutenant arrived at Fort Niagara on the south bank of Lake Ontario, where the Niagara River empties into it. John Dochstедder had left the fort about a month before. He took with him some British soldiers and on the way south through the Genesee Valley, nearly sixty Seneca Indians joined the war party.

The raiders led by Lieutenant Dochstедder made their way down the various rivers in western New York until they could connect to the Susquehanna River's West Branch. From that waterway they probably traveled along the Bald Eagle Creek Path. It was one of the primary Indian paths through the center of the colony of Pennsylvania in the north/south direction. The Bald Eagle Creek Path met the Kittanning path in the vicinity of present-day Altoona. The latter, a primary east/west path became known as the Frankstown Path as it passed the trading post of that name.



Sir Guy Johnson was the commanding officer of the British at Fort Niagara. Johnson took his orders from the Governor of Quebec, Frederick Haldimand. From his post at Fort Niagara, Sir Guy Johnson commanded eight Captains, fifteen Lieutenants, and one Ensign. John Dochstедder was one of those Lieutenants. Prior to his service in the British army, Dochstедder had resided at Tryon County in the New York colony and was engaged in farming. Although it is not known for certain, he might have engaged in Tory activities before joining the British army in 1777.

John Dochstедder was one of the 'white' men who were claimed to be with the Indians when they attacked Captain William Phillips' company of Rangers on the morning of 16 July 1780. After the battle at the Heater cabin ~ after Captain Phillips spent two

years in captivity in Canada ~ and after he returned to Bedford County, he was said to have told his story to Edward Bell, who wrote it down in his own *Memoirs*. And then when U. J. Jones included the story in his book, *History of the Early Settlement of the Juniata Valley*, he recounted that the Bedford County Rangers heard two or three ‘white’ men talking with the Indians. The assumption by Jones and others regarding this incident was that those ‘white’ men were local Tories. They would have had to have been local Tories, wouldn’t they? There were no British in this region ~ they were only along the east coast. Bedford County was two hundred miles to the west of Philadelphia and no British were ever very far west of Philadelphia. ~ Or so that is what was commonly believed.

It wasn’t until 1975 that the papers of Sir Guy Johnson were discovered in the Archives of Canada. It was only then that Lieutenant John Dochstедder’s report was made known, and the actual details of the incident were made known.

The images that are shown here are of the docket maintained in the Archives of Canada in which the papers and letters of Sir Guy Johnson were transcribed.

In Sir Guy Johnson’s words: “Lieutenant Dochstедder is just arrived after having reduced a rebel Block House the commanding officer of which and others are brought to this place ~ On the 16th Ultimo [referring to the 16th of the preceding month, July] he had reached Wood cock Valley in Bedford County

Pennsylvania where the Block house [the Frederick Heater cabin] was situated. He immediately invested it and made several attacks for above an hour when the commanding officer Captain Phillips surrendered.

The garrison consisted of a Captain, Lieutenant and Thirty four Rangers, but the Lieutenant with twenty three men had gone on a scout about two hours before

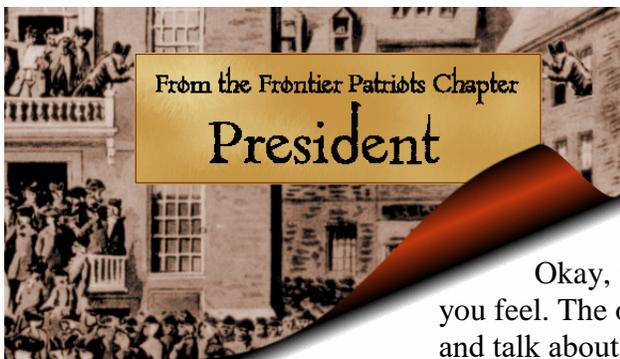
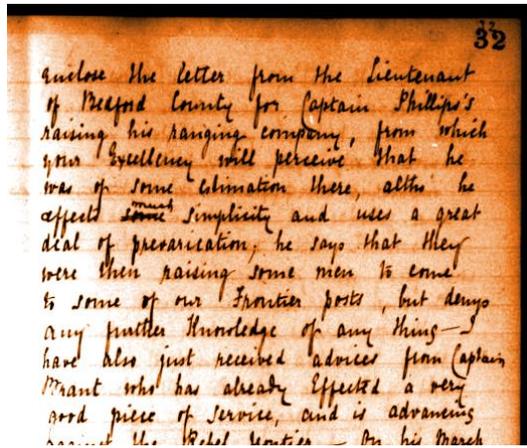
the Attack was made, for which reason, and as the Country was alarmed as well as on account of the Treachery which some of the party has experienced from the rebels the Indians could not be restrained from killing ten of the rebels.

Lieut. Dochstедder destroyed the Block House, and on his return burnt 7 Houses and as many

Graneries and killed some cattle and horses.

I enclose the letter from the Lieutenant of Bedford County for Captain Phillips’ raising his ranging company, from which your Excellency will perceive that he was of some estimation there, altho he affects ~~some~~ much simplicity and uses a great deal of prevarication, he says that they were then raising some men to come to some of our Frontier posts, but deny any further Knowledge of any thing ...”

While Bedford County mourned the deaths of ten and the capture of two of her sons, the British rejoiced that another ‘rebel’ block house had been destroyed.



The next meeting of the Frontier Patriots Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution will be held at Marzoni’s 164 Patchway Road, Duncansville, PA on Saturday, 21 March 2020 starting at 12 Noon.

Okay, so you never go to meetings. I can understand the way you feel. The only thing that anyone does at a meeting is read reports and talk about the group’s finances and blah, blah, blah...

Although reading reports and talking about the finances is a necessary evil of any group’s meeting, we hold them for other, more important reasons. The meeting provides a place for men with something in common (Revolutionary War Patriot ancestors) to gather, have a casual meal together and converse. We have a number of projects coming up in the near future for which we need a wide range of opinions and suggestions. A meeting makes planning an event so much easier than the

sending of emails back and forth to plan it. We would love to hear your thoughts and opinions, and hope that you will join us at this first meeting of the new year and decade. ~ Larry



2020 Meeting & Event Dates

☞ First Quarterly Meeting	March 21
☞ Second Quarterly Meeting	June 13
☞ Phillips' Rangers Massacre Remembrance Ceremony	July 18
☞ Third Quarterly Meeting	September 12
☞ Fourth Quarterly Meeting	December 12

Officers For The Year 2020

President ~ Larry D. Smith

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2nd Vice-President ~ Robert D. Williams

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3rd Vice-President ~

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Historian ~ Larry D. Smith

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Chancellor ~ Melvin C. McDowell

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Genealogist ~ Larry D. Smith

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Chapter Webmaster ~ Larry D. Smith

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Frontier Patriots Chapter website: <http://www.motherbedford.com/FrontierPatriots.htm>



A sewing needle, four straight pins and two thimbles retrieved at the encampment at Nobletown (present-day Hillsdale, New York) by the Continental Army at the battle of Crown Point.



18 July 2020 Is Named Captain Phillips' Rangers Massacre Day

In anticipation of the *Remembrance Ceremony* to be held on 18 July 2020, the Bedford County Commissioners resolved to name the day as: *Captain Phillips' Rangers Massacre Day*.



Four Compatriot members of the Frontier Patriots Chapter attended the 14 January ~ Bedford County Commissioners Meeting at which time the Commissioners officially named the day and presented a printed Resolution to the Chapter.

Present in the photo above are (left to right) Compatriot William Roy Mock, Commissioner Deb Baughman, Secretary Melvin C. McDowell, President Larry D. Smith, Commissioner Josh Lang, Commissioner Barry L. Dallara and Compatriot Robert D. Williams.

For those of you that receive this newsletter by US mail, if you have an email address, we would appreciate you sending it to us to use for future newsletters. Printing and mailing these newsletters is very expensive. Please send to our Secretary Melvin McDowell at melvin.mcdowell@gmail.com