

Chapter 1 : The Life and Times of Philip Schuyler

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OF all the prominent men in public life in America during the last half of the eighteenth century, not one so really distinguished for important services as General Schuyler has received so little attention from the essayist, the historian, or the biographer, as he. No man was ever more keenly alive to the influence of just censure or praise than General Schuyler; and yet no man ever felt less concern than he about the verdict of the popular feeling of the hour. Conscious of unswerving rectitude and fidelity, he was ever perfectly willing to submit his character and motives to the analysis of dispassionate posterity. General Schuyler did not leave behind him any autobiography, in the form of a diary or a narrative of his career. Of his early life we have very little knowledge, except such as is preserved in family traditions and passages in the public records. Hitherto no biography of him has been written. Many years ago the late Chancellor Kent wrote a brief memoir of him, which occupies a few pages in the American Portrait Gallery. It is general and necessarily meager. With these exceptions, very little has hitherto been written concerning the subject of these volumes. VII and records, the public documents and records of the country, printed and in manuscript, authentic histories of his times, and his own correspondence. It is in the form of manuscript letter books on his part, and autograph letters on the part of his correspondents. The former are contained in several large volumes; the latter comprise several thousand loose sheets of paper, all carefully filed and endorsed by Schuyler. These, for many years after his death, were neglected, and became somewhat scattered. Many letters have been lost, and some have been given away as autographs. Having, a few years ago, expressed to them a desire to prepare a biography of their illustrious ancestor, they readily offered me the free use of the materials in their possession. I have examined every paper carefully, and have endeavored to make judicious use of the matter placed in my hands, in the preparation of a history of the "Life and Times of Philip Schuyler," in two moderate sized volumes, adapted to popular use. With these few prefatory remarks, the work is submitted to the public. ABOUT thirty years after Albany, the capital of the State of New York, was founded by the erection of Fort Orange upon its site, and half that length of time before the English conquest gave new masters to the province and new names to the principal settlements, a serious disturbance occurred in the little village that had grown up along the bank of the Hudson, near that earliest regular fortification erected by the Dutch in America. Around these, in a figure of septangular form, were palisades for defense against the savages or other foes; and in due time several minor fortifications, holding allegiance to Fort Orange, were interlinked by these defenses. North of Albany was the seat of the Patroon of Rensselaerwyck, called the Colonie, where the representatives of the lord of that superb manor that stretched along the Mauritius, as the Hudson river was then called, north and south, east and west from Fort Orange, over an area of almost a thousand square miles, assumed an independence of the servants of the Dutch West India Company, by whom the purchase of this large domain from the Indians had been confirmed.: That assumed independence, and the petty tyranny of the Commissary, as the commander of Fort Orange was called, became, in the course of time, productive of bitter blood. Killian Van Rensselaer, the first Patroon, and lord of this manor, never came to America. Johannes, his son and heir, likewise never saw the noble domain of which he was proprietor. The management of the great estate was entrusted to agents. When Killian died, Johannes was a minor, and his uncle, Van Wyley, and Wouter Van Twiller, who had been to America previously to examine the lands in the neighborhood of Fort Orange, became his guardians. He came over with his family in , the same year when Peter Stuyvesant arrived at New Amsterdam as governor or director-general of the province. The land was to be fairly purchased of the Indians, and the title was to be confirmed by the Company. The proprietors were called patroons, patrons, and held a high political and social station in the New World. From the first attempt to plant patroon colonies in New Netherland, the directors of the Amsterdam chamber of the West India Company had been jealous of them, and Stuyvesant, and his immediate predecessors in office, used every fair means to wipe out those already in existence. Two of them were purchased of the grantees, but neither money, threats, nor persuasions could

induce the proprietors of Rensselaerwyck to relinquish that princely estate. The company therefore determined to weaken a power which they could not suppress by purchase, and Governor Stuyvesant and Commissioner Van Slechtenhorst became obstinate champions of rival interests. The former claimed general jurisdiction over the whole province; the latter acknowledged no authority within the domains of Rensselaerwyck outside of Fort Orange, except that of the Patroon himself. For three years the quarrel went on, when a call for a subsidy from Rensselaerwyck, made by Governor Stuyvesant, produced a crisis. Commissioner Van Slechtenhorst went to New Amsterdam to remonstrate with the governor. Both were equally unyielding, and high words ensued at their separation. As it was the custom of Peter the Headstrong to use the logic of physical force against an opponent when oral argument failed, he caused Van Slechtenhorst to be visited that day, before he had finished his dinner, by an officer charged to bring him before the director-general and council. He was detained four months on Manhattan Island, when he escaped in a sloop and returned to the Colonie. At about that time Jean Baptiste Van Rensselaer, the first of that name who came to America, appeared at Beverwyck, and was elected one of the magistrates. Very soon after this, an order was issued, requiring all the freemen and other inhabitants to take the oath of allegiance to the Patroon and his representative. The disturbance alluded to now occurred. The reed-covered roof was ignited by the burning gun-wads, and for a while the mansion was in imminent peril. Young Schuyler endeavored to save his brother-in-law, when Dyckman drew his sword and threatened to run him through. A general fracas ensued, but ended without serious bloodshed. Here we will leave the actors in this quarrel, the events and results of which are recorded in history. Nor will we further display the chronicles of the manor and of the province. Of the antecedents of Philip Pietersen Schuyler, who first appears in history in the famous quarrel at Beverwyck, we have no positive knowledge. We only know that he came to the New World from Amsterdam, in Holland, in the year Tradition says that his family were merchants in that old city, were connected with the West India Company, and had a country seat near Dordrecht. The marriage of young Schuyler and Margaret Van Slechtenhorst was celebrated at Rensselaerwyck on the 12th of December, The nuptial rites were performed by Anthony de Hooges, the Secretary of the Colonie. These were the ancestors of the Schuyler family in America. The arm clothed azure, surmounted by a helmet of steel, standing in profile, openfaced, three bars or, lined gules, bordered, flowered and studded or, and ornamented with its lambrequins argent lined sable. In the original genealogical record of the family in the Dutch language, the name of the first emigrant, who arrived in , is written Philip Pietersen Von Schnyler, which may be translated Philip, son of Peter, from Schulyler. No doubt the latter was the name of the place where the family resided, and had been recently adopted as a surname, as it is not found as such in the records of Holland at that time. In she advanced funds to pay troops at Albany; and it is asserted that toward the close of that year she made a personal assault upon Milborne, the son-in-law of Jacob Leisler, the usurper, as he was called, of political power at New York, when he came to Albany to assume command of the fort, then under charge of her second son Peter, the eminent mayor of that city, and commander of the militia in the northern department of the province. Peter inherited the talents and virtues of his parents, and for many years was one of the most prominent men in the province. He was mayor of Albany from until , and was the first chosen chief magistrate of that city after its incorporation in , the year before his father died. His will bears date " Tuesday evening, May 1, Over the Mohaw-ks, the most noble of the nations of the Iroquois confederation, Peter Schuyler then had almost unbounded control; and until that league was broken, and the nations had dwindled to a few hundreds in the State of New York, at the close of the last century, the Schuyler family had no competitors in influence and friendship with those sons of the forest except Sir William Johnson. They always treated the Indian as a brother and friend, dealt honorably with him, and never deceived him in word or deed. John, the youngest brother of Major Schuyler, was an active young man at this time; athletic, brave, and full of military aspirations. He was the paternal grandfather of General Philip Schuyler. When, in February, , a party of French and Indians came from the north, and at midnight set fire to Schenectada, and butchered the unsuspecting inhabitants, the vengeance of this young man was powerfully stirred, and he sought and obtained the command of a small force of white people and Indians, with which to penetrate the country of the enemy on the borders of the St. The journal of this expedition, kept by Captain Schuyler, reveals the fact that the elk deer were very abundant in northern New York at that time. They have

now entirely disappeared. It consisted of " Christians, ; Mohawques, 80; R. River or Mohegan Indians, A Mohawk deserter left the camp near Chamblee, and informed the French of the approach of the invaders. The latter were thus prepared for the reception of the former, and well defended their fort at Laprairie. After several skirmishes, the expedition returned to Albany toward the close of August, with a loss of nineteen white men and savages. For a short time he was acting governor of the colony, and for many years he was chief commissioner for Indian affairs. In he went to England with four Indian chiefs, who were representatives of four nations that composed the Iroquois confederacy. These, and the nations they represented, were much attached to Schuyler, whom they familiarly called " Brother Queder. Colonel Schuyler bore an address to Queen Anne from the Colonial Assembly of New York, and he and his confederate " kings," as they were called, were treated with distinguished honor. In September, , Governor Bellomont sent him to Canada with a message to Count Frontenac, respecting the designs of the latter toward the Five Nations and the English. He visited Quebec and Montreal; "felt the pulse" of the Indians on his journey; made careful observations of the strength and condition of the French, and gave the governor of Canada an exalted idea of the great military power which the Earl of Bellomont might command" One hundred thousand men, rather more than less," he said. This mission was successful, and in May, the following year, he and John Bleecker were appointed commissioners to hold a general council with the Five Nations at Onondaga Castle. He was an Indian commissioner for a great many years, and his name appears frequently in the colonial records of the period between and as one of the most active of the servants of the government in keeping the Iroquois in alliance with the English. He was chosen to a seat in the Colonial Assembly in , and held that position until From that time until the kindling of our old war for independence, the name of Schuyler appears almost continually among those of the representatives of the people in the legislature of the province of New York. In that church they were buried, the wife in , and the husband ten years afterward. Being the eldest son, he was heirexpectant to the real estate of his father, which, before his death, became large in amount, he having purchased several valuable tracts from the Indians in the vicinity of Albany, and in the Mohawk country. This son of the active Captain Schuyler does not appear prominent in history. He married his cousin Cornelia, youngest child of Stephen Van Cortlandt, of New York, by whom he had reasonable expectations of considerable wealth, that aristocratic Dutch family then ranking among the most opulent in the province. He appears to haTve lived the quiet life of a gentleman of leisure. Franklin, was baptized on the day of his birth. The atmosphere of free thought and action, composed of the congenial ingredients of the spirit of barbaric life in the neighboring forests, a traditional and inherent hatred of oppression and undue restraint, and a sense of equality of condition that had for a hundred years more and more distinguished the inhabitants of the province, nurtured into strength and activity, in his youth and early manhood, those physical and mental qualities which gave him preeminence during a long and eventful life. Democracy in its broadest and purest sense â€”the idea of civil government lodged in the hands of the peoplefound in the province of New York a most congenial soil for its germination, efflorescence and fruitage. The seed was wafted across the Atlantic by gales of persecution, from almost every land in western Europe, where the rights of conscience had been assailed-where the sanctities of private life and the shrine of the spirit had been invaded. These found lodgment and took root upon the shores of the broad and beautiful bay of New York, then New Amsterdam, while Dutch power, tempered with that divine toleration which had made Holland an asylum for the persecuted, bore rule in New Netherland. The Hollanders and Swedes upon Manhattan and in Nova Cwsarea, the Waldenses upon Staten Island, and the Walloons and English upon Long Island, who had found in these forest regions a sure refuge from persecution, lived in harmony and sweet accord, unmindful of the diversity of creeds that shaped the forms of their worship of Almighty God. From the vineyards of France, from the sunny valleys of Piedmont, from the picturesque banks of the Rhine, from stormy England-stormy in fact and figure-and froln the sterile soil and intolerant spirit of the Pilgrim land on the shores of Massachusetts Bay, refugees soon came, and the wise and generous Hollanders who held the sceptre of governmental power gave all a hearty welcome, nor questioned them concerning the secrets between man and his Maker. When it was once taken, the allegiance carried with it all the sanctions of a sacrament; and citizenship, as in some other colonial communities, did not rest chiefly nor at all]. Such was the broad basc- upon which rested a commercial and cosmopolitan republic in the New World,

seated at the open door to a vast inland trade and future civilization; while another republic, greater in numerical strength, physical force, and breadth of domain and influence flourished deep in the interior. They called themselves "Aquanuschioni" united people," and they claimed to have sprung from the soil on which they dwelt, like the trees of the wilderness.. With these people the early settlers of New Netherland, and for a hundred years the Schuyler family in particular, had much to do as traders in peace, and as allies or as enemies in war. In their political arrangements they exhibited features in common with the Hollanders. Their confederacy was composed of separate independent communities, having distinct municipal laws, like the United Provinces of Holland, and no one nation held a preeminent position in the constitution of the league. They were originally five republics, confederated for mutual defense and conquest, and they were known as the Five Nations until they were joined by the Tuscaroras, a community of Southern Iroquois, who were expelled from the Carolinas early in the last century.

Chapter 2 : Philip Schuyler - Wikipedia

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Before his father died on the eve of his eighth birthday, Schuyler attended the public school at Albany. Afterward, he was educated by tutors at the Van Cortlandt family estate at New Rochelle. Later in that war, he served as a quartermaster , purchasing supplies and organizing equipment. Schuyler family Philip was related to many illustrious contemporaries, including: He began construction on his home in Albany, later called Schuyler Mansion , during this time. He also began construction of his country estate now known as the General Schuyler House , at Saratoga. In , Schuyler began his political career as a member of the New York Assembly , serving in that body until During that time, his views came to be more opposed to the colonial government, particularly in matters of trade and currency. He was made a colonel in the militia for his support of Governor Henry Moore. His poor health required him to place Richard Montgomery in command of the invasion. As department commanding general, he was active in preparing a defense against the Saratoga Campaign , part of the "Three Pronged Attack" strategy of the British to cut the American Colonies in two by invading and occupying New York State in On the way he invested the small Colonial garrison occupying Fort Ticonderoga at the nexus of the two lakes. In , Schuyler and Arthur St. Clair were court-martialed for the loss of Ticonderoga, but were both acquitted. That victory, the first wholesale defeat of a large British force, marked a turning point in the revolution, for it convinced France to enter the war on the American side. He then served in two more sessions of the Continental Congress in and Schuyler was an original member of the New York Society of the Cincinnati. Later career[edit] After the war, he expanded his Saratoga estate to tens of thousands of acres, adding slaves, tenant farmers, a store, mills for flour, flax, and lumber. His flax mill for the making of linen was the first one in America. He built several schooners on the Hudson River , and named the first Saratoga. Afterwards he returned to the State Senate from to , where he actively supported the adoption of the United States Constitution. In , he was elected a U. After losing his bid for re-election in to Aaron Burr , he returned to the State Senate from to In , he was elected again to the U. Senate and served in the 5th United States Congress from March 4, , until his resignation because of ill health on January 3, Johannes was the grandson of Hendrick van Rensselaer â€” Engelkje was the daughter of Robert Livingston the Younger. Philip and Catherine had 15 children together, eight of whom survived to adulthood, including:

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It was reported that speculation on the stock exchange and gambling were responsible for his bankruptcy in August . In Boston, he began a variety of businesses, including banking and shipping, and speculated in currency and land. In , along with his business partner, Col. Jeremiah Wadsworth of Hartford, Connecticut , he secured a contract for provisioning the French forces in America, becoming Commissary General. Two years later, they were contracted as sole suppliers to the American army as well, and ended up making a fortune. After briefly returning to America in , Church and his family left for England the same year. In , the Churches bought the Verney property at Wendover so that he could run for Parliament, which he did in , when he was elected a Member of Parliament for Wendover. After his vote, he suggested the government should investigate the great amount of money held by trustees of public lands, himself included, not being utilized rather than interfere with unpaid Bank dividends. The Prime Minister thanked him for highlighting the issue. In , William Curtis raised the issue again with a motion for inquiry into the trustees of Ramsgate harbour over their possession of funds. Church was appointed to the select committee as he supported the idea. Also in and again in , he voted with the opposition in the Oczakov debates concerning the Russian occupation of the Turkish port of Ochakiv on the Black Sea. Thereafter, Church regularly voted with the Foxite minority for the rest of his parliamentary career. In , he tried with Fox, to stall discussions of an emigration bill in the House. By , he sold his property at Wendover to the Right Hon. Robert, Lord Carrington , [6] and retired from the House of Commons. Philip settled there in a log cabin, and built a house when he married in . In , the Churches began construction on a thirty-room mansion near the village of Angelica, called Belvidere , which still stands as a privately-owned home on the banks of the Genesee in Belmont, New York. Also, Aaron Burr claimed in his memoir that he owned the pistols used in his duel with Church. Unacquainted with his family, his connections and situation in life, the match was exceedingly disagreeable to me, and I had signified it to him. He died in London on April 27, , after a short illness, [29] and was buried at St.

Chapter 4 : Editions of The Life And Times Of Philip Schuyler by Benson John Lossing

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November 11, Death Date: November 18, Place of Birth: Philip Schuyler was born in Albany, N. He received an excellent education. After commanding a company of New York militia in the French and Indian War, he managed the large estate left him by his father in the Mohawk and Hudson River valleys. At the same time, Schuyler was active in supporting the colonial cause in the controversy with Great Britain. He argued the colonial position in the provincial Assembly in and went to the Second Continental Congress in May as delegate from New York. There he served with George Washington on a committee to make rules and regulations for the army. In June , shortly after the Revolution began, Congress appointed him a major general, one of four to serve under Washington. After raising and supplying an army and strengthening Ticonderoga and Crown Point on the route north, he was forced by ill health to turn over command of the troops to Gen. The attack failed, and Schuyler was given much of the blame. He had, actually, delayed too long in ordering the army to get under way and had been too slow and deliberate in executing his plan, but the true cause of the defeat lay in factors beyond his control. He also made some bad decisions during the course of the campaign of British general John Burgoyne in northern New York in ; one of these contributed to the loss of Ft. Ticonderoga, an American stronghold. Accusations of incompetence were leveled against him, along with a rumor of intrigue with the enemy. In Schuyler demanded a court-martial to air the charges. He was acquitted that October but felt it best to resign his commission. After leaving the army, Schuyler was active in politics, holding office continually until , when illness forced his permanent retirement. He served as state senator for 13 years and for 3 years as U. Schuyler died in Albany on Nov. Schuyler, Colonial New York: Philip Schuyler and His Family 2 vols. Need a custom written paper? Let our professional writers save your time. Need an original paper?

Chapter 5 : John Barker Church - Wikipedia

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Chapter 7 : Philip John Schuyler - Biography

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General Schuyler did not leave behind him any auto biography, in the form of a diary or a narrative of his career. Of his early life we have very little knowledge, except such as is preserved in family traditions and pas sages in the public records. Hitherto no biography of him has been written.