*Journal of a Visit to the Seneca Indians, 1796, by James Cooper of Woodbury, N.J.*

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Brother Town Lands divide into and Numbered 149 lotts, 6 r Setled[?] Stockbridge 6 miles Square 90 families & 300 Individuals to 350 Dr Yearly Oneida about 600 Individuals of Government Yearly 5000 Dollars from the State & from general Government 700 Tuscaroras 12 famalies nothing from Government Onandagos about 130 Individuals, Retain'd lands of 5[?] miles one way & 4 the other, & have annually from the State of New- York 1250 Dollars besides a Gratuity in Cloathing from the general Government Cayugas consists of 77 Individuals, Retain of their lands 2 miles Square they receive from the general government 500 dollars in goods and 23000 Dollars from State of New-York for their land a late purchase of which they have a share, about half of the tribe remaining on the Number of the Senecas taken from Captain Chapins Account taken

Main Village at Buffalo Creek---384 Seneca's within a Year last[?]

White Chief's Village-----107 commited the following Robberies

Cateraugarus-----225 of Captain Dudley in Canadarga

Allighany Corn planter's 2 Villages-----331 Canadaway-----£70

Tawnawandis-----104 Crosset at G[?]hannesee River-----20

Canawagus-----22 Havers[?]-----4

Chennesee Village -----91 Ewing-----14

Big Tree-----80 108

Squauhee Hill-----190 which as deducted at their last payment, Crosoet[?] after

Ha-oun-o-de-o-----113 he left the settlement on his way

1644 home several of them fell on him and beat him and left him They thought dead, having a particular dislike from some dislike to him on account his unfair dealing

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30 of the 5 Month 1796 about 10 o’clock set out from home for the Indian Country. Cross'd the river to Philadelphia, rode to Germantown 6 miles when our company John Pearce, Joseph Sansom, Isaiah Rowland,Enoch Walker,Henry Simmons & myself met, likewise several other Friends to see us start, the day wet and roads very muddy got to David Cumminses to lodge in 9 miles Riding Here Log31st: morning wet road by Buckingham Meeting House so on the direct way to Karels Ferry near by. Din'd at Oliver Paxtons after which went to Howels Ferry in 23 miles Riding these crossed, and in riding about 13 more through what is called the great swamp a wet stony unfertile appearance we came to & lodged on Mount Prospect at Henry Cliftons near Kingwood Meetinghouse. 6th month 1st by taking a rong road wenthad to ride 5 miles to no purpose though thereby had a sight of very different prospects and among others a prospect of Eastown cross'd Musconecunch Creek at Jonstons[?] mill and in riding 40 miles came to Jacob Lundas his wife’s name Sarah a public Friend where we received a Hearty welcome.

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2nd of the month riding the Road a little intricate our friend kindly sent his Son about six miles with us to put us in our Road and in riding about 12 miles passed Sussex Courthouse , crossed the line of N. Jersey and N. York got a bait for our horses and Glass of wine for ourselves with a kind woman the wife of a now General Hethorn who’se a member of Congress for State of N. York rode above thirty miles mostly in a [?] Valley Mountain and hill were as wall on each side put us at Joseph H Drakes a publick house near Chester a town nearly laid out, 50 miles it was computed we rode this Day, Third of the month and 5th of the week rode to New Winser by the a North River side the hills so high that we seemingly got on the Roofs [?] of the houses beforeby the timeby we see-- them this morning Rode about 20 miles here we Dined with Daniel Burns who three years ago removed from Pensylvania his mill appears to be calculated for much business is within a few [?] of the flowings of the River side, after refreshing[?] our selves and horses we set off & 12 miles riding reach'd Edward Halluck Father in law of David Sands a pleasant agreeable antient friend in the 77th year of his life the force of his Mentalfaculties appears to be without

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retained to admiration he informed us that he attended our yearly meeting last year, our horses and selves being prety much wearied the horses by the rug gedness of the Road there appearingnot having been accus tomed to stony roads & not having a meeting before us that We could attend with convenience it was concluded best to lie by Seventh day & be at the meeting in this place we is call'd New-malborough meeting we likewise did & attended the meeting on first Day which was but small our stage was halfway from N. York to Albany eighty miles from each first day afternoon J. Rowland unwell friend Hullack inform'd me the Hierisicra put into Spirits the proportion one ounce to a quart of Spirits is an extraordinary medicine that he has been very subject to sick headach & by taking a portion on thereof was believed & in other complaint very useful. Sixth of the month & second of the Week our selves Refreshed (except J.R. he much better than Yesterday) & horses, Refresh'd left our hospitable friend, Houg E. & his son James & families whose kindness we shall keep in mind the antient friend bearing the Company Five miles on our way then parted with him respectfully rode through 22 miles to Esopus the Country town houses built of stone cross'd the ferry before we came to the town then from Esopus 24 miles further to the ferry opposite Katskill come so late in the evening no conveniency of Crossing the Creek the Sehow [?] on the opposite side aground Tavern not very a hospitable neighbourneighbor & wife kindly took us under his Roof and our horses into his Pasture for the night

Third day of the week & Seventh of the month this morning walked a few rods from our lodgings to a view of a phenomenon on the premises of our last night’s landlord Jacob Bogardus he with us which was the earth sunk on a body of between two & three Acres to near sixty feet perpendicular to measure the

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the Bank of Earth it was Crost[?] of from its sink was on seventh Day last seen by several people on the opposite side of the Creek it was to be sure a strange sight to see how jostled & jumbled a situation the sudden stroke of a few minutes left in it so vastly uneven very wide cracks opening so wide as it was with difficulty we could pass to view it. These was at the time a flock of sheep grazing thereon and in there surprise huddled together after taking a view to our satisfaction and admiration returnd to our quarters got a breakfast . Crossed the Katskill Creek to the Village of the same name where our host inform'd us 6 years ago there were but 7 dwellings houses now we suppose there to be between 40 & 50 & 20 stores several vessels on the Hocks[?] from thence we Rid & crossed Baltimore Creek & T Town Village 22 miles & Din'd Edward Hallack son of our Ancient kind friend of the same name heretofore namedafter which we set out for Albany the stream of our Northern course when we got late in the evening put up our horses at a Tavern after which our friend Peter Field a Watchmaker the only whose family is the only one that has a right among friends, got us quarters these appearing a necessity of our dividing, there are but a few other members & a few more friendly People & professors but no meeting nearer than Sixteen miles, the friends wife express to me the concern it was to her that they were so situated the Custom of the place was such as to give her concern on their children’s account that her daughterthey hadseveral times had invitations to go to their public amusements, that the refusal seems strange to the impiters[?] this last ride to until we got to Albany was 16 miles, though we believed it to be 20 the fourth of the week & eighth of the month in the Afternoon left Albany and rode 14 miles to Schenectady where we lodged the place seems nearly as large as Albany tay[?] above the Rapids of Mohawk River, between the two town a barren Sandy soil chiefly

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timbered with Pitch Pine

Ninth of the month cross'd the SchanactadyMohock rid in theRiver most of the way this morning could see the water the Road goes wentunder the hill so on the other side the same a bottom land appearance very fertile of about an hun -dred Rod a hill on each side of a consideable size of considerable Highth covered with with scrubs & pine as high as the forks of the Schoharra and Mohock twenty miles from the town we Lodg'd at, we Din'd near the little Village called Cagnawago about four miles from Johnstown were inform'd the Country a little distance very good black soil thickly setted to the place we rode 25 miles afternoon rode along the sidebank of the River 10 miles to theSpraykers ferry where we lodg'd this last ride more pleasanter than the mornings the bankshills still continuing very high the Bottoms some wider as we rode a long on the tops discovered it to be very fertile bearing wheat, oats, Peas, Oats & Peas sowed together & very good Grass – Tenth of the month & sixth of the week this Morning started without Breakfast or Oats for our Horses cross'd the ferry the Road still continuing between on the Bottom between the High Hill of & the River now on the South side of the River its admisabe the bottom wider & better Improv'd its soil appears to be wonderfully fertile resembling our Bank Meadows with this difference they having the expence of Tide banks these none the ferry keeper inform us he had yesterday cross'd between 60 & 70 People keeping Tavern & Stores is the Choissest employment of the setters we had onon the Road, we this morning we breakfasted 10 miles on our Road where we were told that Cherry Valley lay eighteen miles south of the river where we then were

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we now left the bottom land our Road Rough and stony for nearly twenty miles many new settlements, it appearing fertile where not Clear'd Coated with the Sugar Maple, Beech and with what the people call Black Beech with we call it Black Ash of which they chiefly fence in many places much of the white pines. The Sugar Maple was easily know from the many scars that had been made from time to time to run the sap, some were as large as two feet Diameter we reach'd the German Flats to Dine 18 miles which one find to be an ancient setted place setted by the Germans Emigrating from Albany nearly Eighty years ago after Dinner cross'd over the River on to the East side rode through a large body of these flats and but after some Riding fell up got into a Leavel Rich Bottom Timber'd with Hemlock chiefly rode several miles therein Until we came to the River bottom as again described wonderfully fertile deep ⟨&⟩ Ritch Cloth'd with Timber, cross'd the River on a bridge to Old Fort Schyler and so on to Whites Townwhere we lodged the land having the same fruitful appearance, we rode this afternoon a mostly in about 25 miles & most of the way in a new setted country settedwithin a dozen Years since the war. The Houses new land new and settlements so near that it resembles a town most of the way, many Stately well built Houses built of wood, Stone appear scarce here this morningThe Eleventh, this morning had an opportunity with Colonell Floyd who to our staisfaction happened to be in the Village who appeared to be a free openhearted sincere friend to us & our Concern gave us all the information he was capable of with respect to our move & his own Judgment of what might be useful afternoon we left the place & in in 14 Miles riding reached Captain HendricksHindrech Smiths an Oneida Indian setted nearly the line

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between the Oneidas & Stockbridges where we staid all Night it being the sun being set by the time we got herebywe sent a note of our being here to Captain Hendricks about three miles off the road being very bad which has been the case all the way from Whites towninto[?] a new Road lying on bad bottom for a Road the Timber very thick of different kinds there largest Kind is what they call Basswood the bark of which the Indians roof their houses, our Indian landlord & wife appears frugal people & somewhat of an Industrious appearance having nineteen two yoke of oxen several cows, his stock of Horn kind we were told was nineteen, twenty hogs little and big. He this morning which is the twelfth of the month informed us he had lost by Deathsome distemper particularly attendant to his place within five years Eleven Horses the eleventh died this morning he now lives in a house having two rooms on a floor and has the materials for Building a frame house to be covered with shingles over a sellar the workman to begin the work tomorrow he has eight Children the youngest in the arms the Wife speaks English he but very little, this morning Captain Hendricks with one or two others came to meet & accompany us to his house where we Breakfasted & whereby his consent - at our accustomed time we sat down with in his with his consort & company in order to perform our duty to Worship he after which his freedom was ask'd with respect to our siting down in our orderly manner to worship the good spirit for which he freely consented to Likewise he with his wife and family and several others that came in sat with us in a very Solid commendable manner, the wife appears

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to be Religious worthy woman observing her to be employ'd in Catichizing her Children in the afternoon she was Asked whether she was in the practice of so doing on first days she reply'd she was regularly & that twice in the day which practice of inculcating the good principals of Religion in Children in the afternoon on first days is a requested having he requested that the Chiefs of his nation might have an opportunity of communicating some things they had on their minds which they did in the evening, several of their Chiefs assembling, Hendricks began with a relation of the origin of their present settlement there unhappy uneasiness in their little tribe from such as said were disposed to live without a necessary subordination that to Rules & was necessary to govern all Bodies of People notwithstanding their body was small yet they had found it necessary to have Rules to govern them then he Rehears'd part of them which appeared well calculated to preserve harmony & Concord among them, but some of them still remaining unwilling to sign them such they deprive of certain privaledges untill they sign, that theywhich they at any time may do & then have equal priviledges with the rest of their brethren

13th of 6th month We met them in general counsel their Missionary John Sargeant was ask'd to walk in with us as the place of meeting their meeting house in within a few rods of this as we could do no less having had an invitation this morning by a few lines to breakfast with him & Daughters which we kindlyaccepted, after we were seated. Hendrick in behalf of his people opened the Counsel by saying they were glad to see us, and were now ready to hear what we had to say, then we proceeded to open our business and payand our payafter which we endeavouring to impress them with a sense of the necessity their present state required of exerting themselves

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in clearing their Lands, Tilling the ground, Raising grain, Cattle, Sheep, & Hogs, that they might subsist by what their farms land would produce were they to apply themselves to an industrious care & frugality and not indulge themselves with the delight of hunting the wild game, for it had very much fail'dthemlessened already and would continue to declinegrow scarcer and scarcer decrease, and with respect to that grievous evil they were so much addicted to of getting in Liquor that the sooner they took to this market betook themselves to this way of life the better, and likewise the great need there was for them to desist from that evil systemgrievous practice they are so accustomed to that is of getting in the excessive love of liquor, that it was one of their vices that not only displeased the Great Spirit, but had & would still whilst they continued in the practice be a hindrance to their Reformation in a life of civilization & a comfortable, plentiful living which we much desired to see them enjoy, after we had made an end of [?]what one had to say we waited for them to pause & confer together a little time, then Hendrick express'd, that they were glad to see us & hear our words which they would as it were swallow down & give us an answer then they had considered them. One antient grave man whose name was Samuel a Moravian said he was very glad to see us & in a broken uninteligent manner expressed himself, by which we he was under sensible impressions of by a Religious which wasMan attended with feelings after whichmeeting we went to Captain Hendricks & eat dinner after which some time after took a walk to see his wheat field about a mile off his house through the woods soil very good appearing chiefly a mold rather inclining to too much wet for winter grain, which in my opinion is generally the case in this Country, perhaps after it becomes clear'd and exposed to the sun it may very much change, his field of wheat was of the summer kind and about four acres, very Rank and Strong, their land has abundance of timber I think it has the preference in that respect of any I ever saw or at least untill I came very near their teritory, the extent of their lands (that is the Stockbridge

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was measured them by miles, a gift of the Oneidas to them of six miles square, Indian reprobating the very Idea of selling land to their brothers the Indians, and when the Stockbridge Indians had a mind to move tofrom their settlement of Old Stockbridge in

New England, having an opportunity atwhile the Oneidas left their habitations in the last war & abode took Refuge at Schanectady, they proposed to contract with them for a settlement among them, they refused selling their Lands to them but gave it them as before mentioned, they then their Acts of benevolence in this way has extended to other tribes of their brethren, as the Brothertowns, the remaining branches of several nations collectedly and seated in the same manner, which in their settlement is distinguished by the Brothertown Settlement also the Tuscaroras are settled in the same manner, they have not any granted them by covenant this makes them uneasyStockbridges town or settlement is about the middle of their lands one way, resembling a Village near a considerable Stream of water on which they have erected their Saw mill, at the Tale of the Saw mill they have p propose erecting their a Grist mill, the saw mill has been sometime disabledand yet remains in an unfit situation to do any service for them, the Dam having a breach thereinin it they appear to be concerned about it and had proposed this day tomorrow to mend the breach, the missionary inform'd us there was two of their men had learnt to saw very well & by the appearance of the boards that was cut at the mill it appear'd they understood the business very well, their houses are built with round logs as high as the Square, & roof'd principally with the Bass tree Bark which with a little frames makes a tight roof and will last for several years, but since they have their saw mill at worktheir Ideas as to houses seems to be a little exalted that they are preparing for Squar'd log houses of Shingle Roofs Hendrick Aupaumet said he raised a hundred bushel of Wheat last year & had sold 50 Bushels of Indian Corn

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14th: of 6th: This morning Rainy we did not send to the Oneidas untill after breakfast then sent them word to meet us at two o’clock, in the afternoon it clear'd away and walked to their Village about four miles from the Stockbridges, on the way met a messenger sent from the Tuscaroras with a few lines from their chief wishing us to come and see them, we accor dingly did their settlement between the Oneidas and Stockbridges converst with one of their Chiefs Nicholas Tuisack were informed by him their tribe there on that settlement of was twelve families that past they originally were setled to the Southward, and that we think its likely they were the original proprietors of the Hopewell lands, concerning which our yearly meetings for many years were exercised with, we left them for the present & went on to the Oneidas where we met part of them at their Chiefs house lately built, its a frame weatherboarded & shingled they having a sawmill and it going which was built by Government which by Government the Dam broke the Dam broke at the time the Stockbridge likewise a Grist mill which we understood & so has been for someto be built this summer time is begun, After opening Counsel the lateness of the day, unfit ness of the Interpreter for Rendered it necessary both for them & us to postpone our Communications until another day which was agree'd to & fifth day next at 10 oClock when their old Interpreter Captain Jacob Read is to officiate in that Capacity

15th:[?] This after noon we took another opportunity with the Tusca roras we find they have never had any portion of land measured them but find they consider themselves Dependants therefore unhapppy

16th: This morning we with several of the Inhabitants of the town accomplished a piece of Indian fence in a very short time for a fresh pasture for our horses, between 9 and 10 began to Rain but set off some afoot others on Horseback to the Oneidas according to appointment after some time they generally met, after some time they delivered us some introductory speeches, then the nature of our business was oppened of all of which they seemingly could not understand and in particular that we should bring them plows without oxen to Draw the Ploughs, but after some further explanations they seem'd better reconsited, and said after some time spent in their counsel in communicating

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our business in such a manner as that they understood it then they made their Reply’s and that thank'd us that we took such a long journey from our homes that we were welcome in their country and that we might settle where it suited us signifying somethat their young men were disposed to be instructed in the farming business & Machanick Arts, after some further enquiry respecting their concerns parted with in the Evening returned to our home Captain Hendricks, Next morning the 17th: found that our Horses had got out of their Pasture in afternoon an Indian man went after them got upon their track & found them about six miles from our Quarters making towards the south in an entire strange Road, at the Treaty with the OneidasDavid Fowler came he’s one of the Peacemakers and Chiefs of the Brotherton settlement, he thought it was better for us to fix meeting them at their Town next day after tomorrowseventh day which was accordingly done, at Ten oClock

To day we were invited to a Treaty of the Stockbridges among themselves, the design to reclaim a few disorderly persons that had for some time have had a pleasure in opposing every measure & all their Rules which the majority have thought right to adopt for the well governing their Civil & Temporal concerns, their Friends the Oneidas were invited hoping their Influence might have a beneficial effect, they likewise did attend & two of our number went, who informed us when they return'd, that their business appear'd to be unto the concerned a matter of importance and treated an important matter, accordingly, that some of their business in the manner of their transacting of it appear'd to be with theuncommon interesting sobriety, but to them that were but spectators very Humorous, then the Oneidas Tumilee respecting the gift of their lands to the Stockbridges they compar'd it a steel dish and spoon which was strong firm & Usefull this was in reply to the refractory party when

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they desired a particular gift of land to them, but said they if we should give you Land it would be like a wooden Dish & spoon it would not be Usefull, but would we think break & split to pieces then it could not be Usefull to you we think in your present temper of mind land would not be Usefull to you that you would presently sell it differ about something & disagree and so split, & Break to pieces like the wooden Dish and Spoon then you would sell the land & it would then be like the wooden Dish and Spoon be no ways Usefull

18th: This morning set of for theBrothertown where we got about eleven oClock in Riding about nine miles, the road most of the way Excessively bad like the Road almost all the way from Whites Town to any each of the Indian settlements, present ly after we came to their town they met together generally both Men and Women where we had not the same difficulty as heretofore but spoke without an Interpreter, but few of them understanding any other than our own language, We had a full open opportunity, which was a appear'd to be well received by most of them two of their Chiefs & Peacemakers David Fowler (before mentioned) and John Tuhie expressing in the meeting their satisfaction in seeing & hearing us, that had come so far to see them, several of them appear to be Religious sober orderly People, having a watchful care great desire & watchful care over these people often impressing their minds with by the great the need of guarding against Immorallity of all kinds & in an esspecial manner that great evil that’s so Insodental to their people, & had evidintaally been hurtfull in thier little community and if not unitedly guarded against would be their ruin that is the love of strong Liquor

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They as the Stockbridges have some disorderly walkers that’s seeking every opportunity to undermine their Government, the most mischievous among them is Elijah Wampa an elderly man, before their regulation law made by the Legislative of New-York last year he exercised great Authority among them, untill he came under bonds for his good behavior, since that his disturbance of the Peace consists in endeavoring to influence the minds of the people against the Law but they seem generally to favour it & quietly submit thereto believing thereby they shall have their Rights secur'd, and may enjoy Peace & Tranquillity, this Old man manifested thewhat spirit he was of, to Us Strangers the day we met them in Counsel, First day 19th: they having before informed Us they had no Minister that preach'd for hire and were desirous we should set with them in our manner of worship, nothing appearing in our minds to object, we accordingly near the time which was Ten o’clock their time of meeting, they having an afternoon meeting. we went and set down with them and had a satisfactory meeting with them in the afternoon, some of our company feeling an inclination of setting with them in their afternoon, accordingly three went

20th: Part of our Company went to fort Schyler to see if Jacob Taylor had come with our thingsfarming utensils, the other three spent the day in going to see the families at their houses, they Receiv'd our visit very kindly, there’s about fifty six families in this settlement, their lands consists of about ten thousand Acres lacking a few, all surveyed and divided into lots of

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about fifty and some  a hundred Acres each, those that are setted have one Lott, each except some few who werehave been the first setters who they have agreed should have more, they have gathered from several of the Eastern States, and continue to gather that & when they come those lots that are not already Occupied are mined[?] & such as suits the new comer he fixes himself upon, this Spring or last Winter several families have come mov'd here, these lots remain are to be remain unoccupied until such times as be fill'd up setted by such as may come from time to time. From this circumstance of their coming from different parts gave the name of the place was nam'd Brothertown. There’s considerable improvement which they now enjoy without their Labour having Labour'd their having bestowing any labour for, Before the Legislatur last fall interfear'd they had least their lands to the White People who in a few years, had built houses clear'd land and were seated thereon, many of them had a prospect, from their expressions, of keeping their foothold & with great reluctance mov'd off by the time appointed in the Law made for regulating these Indians affairs, In short notwithstanding they appear very Poor at this time with respect to their having a sufficiency of Household goods and Stock of Creatures & farming utentials from the many Corroborating circumstances, they may become very good living if not a Wealthy people, their lands extraordinary good, having now several Lotts of Grass some containing 3, 4 & 10 & 12 acres [?] of Englishof Timothy, & some Clover mixed with the Timothy equalvery little inferior to any [?] we have ever seen at any place. They have an yearly income from the State of New York of 860 pounds and better, an Interest for the whole sum valuedthe State purchased upon the lands sold by them to governmentthe State, they having already receiv'd their some Cattle & are direct to purchase a considerable number

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of both Cattle & sheep so that they may have stock enough for their lands in a few years the greatest block in their having a plentifull & a comfortable living is

21st: This morning we left our friends the Brotherton & came to Stockbridge to our old home Hendrick Aupaumuts. Obediah Sepio’s wife is David Fowler’s daughter inform'd Us she had recovered from a disorder in theher Blood which which had grievous afflicted her for I think four years which is call'd the King’s evil, and after trying the skill of several Doctors, & many things, was told that by taking the Blood or Red Root and puting it Spirits might it was likely help her, that had been known to cure several under that desperate disorder which she accordingly did which had affected a cure on her the disorder by her relation appeared to have raged in a very desperate degree.

22nd: We in the afternoon met our these friends that left us on the 20th: to go to Scyler town who brought us word they could hear no tidings of Jacob Taylor & goods, which now begins to give us concern as the most material preparatory business to the application of those goods seems nearly gone through, this visit to the Oneidas settlement is to look about to find a suitable spot to fix our young men & their farm, we believing it might be best to settle there as they appear to be much less cultivated than the Stockbridges after some time spent looking about the settlement, we went to see the Sawmill which lies about half a mile from the main body of their town Houses, it appears to be a very good seat for mills the dam remains broke unrepaired a few hands a day a Couple of days might repair the Dam, but don't find they seem as tho they had no Interest in it, the foundation for a Grist mill is laid & is to be built by government, from thence we went except one of us to view a place about 4 miles off to see whether it would suit for our farm which, we found to be a flat Grass of several hundred Acres mostly covered with a good

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grass, & above all places that I ever saw this exceeded for Strawberrys here four of us Staid all night, next morning on the 23rd again went to the Oneida settlement when we after viewing the the place again we agreed upon the placea lot we believed would answer the our purpose, then return'd to our home Captain Hendricks it being the 23rd. At our return were inform'd the two Commissioners from Boston, (Presbyterian ministers) who at the request or direction of their Brethren of Scotland had in the forenoon held a Counsel with the Stockbridges & was then gone to Oneida to a Counsel with them. They had 24 questions in writing as how many Pagans, how many Indians of the nation, whether they increased or deceased and the rest I do not recollect, What gave rise to the Visit wasit seems the Oneidas had made complaint in writing to the Society that their [?]Kirkland did not preach but once in a while, that he had an £100 a year they thought he ought to serve them faithfully they came to see whether the complaint was well Grounded or not Some of our company had an opportunity with them who said they appeared very friendly to our concern & told Us or one of them he wish'd us success in our under taking that he thought we had got upon the right bottom to make a fair proof of what can be done to change their habits of Life, likewise they requested if we had no objection they might have a Copy of our Minute from the Committee they should send one to their Brethren in Scotland, we furnished gave them one, their Names

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24th: held our little weekday Meeting in our Landlord’s Barn, in the after noon committed stated our proposi tions in writing which respect to what we want the Oneida to grant that they and Ourselves things might be upon Certainties next morning 25th: three of our company went called a Counsel of theSeveral of their Chiefs Read them and [?] which were Interpreted which seem'd to be agreeable to them, they requested to have them until Second day the day appointed to again meet them in Counsel they had them accordingly J. Pierse and Myself spent part of the day in Visiting the Sick and Aged, who Received with with marks of great friendship Acknowledging it a sure mark of our great friendship to them the Poor Indians when we had left our homes & had Rode so far to see them, As a mark of their friendshipGratitude one Instance verifies, one of the personsWomen, a widow who had before invited us to see her sick sister had sent a present of half a very good lamb this morning, She has Seven Children the youngest about two years old & her sick Sister who had been so for near Two years, there is her family she appears to live as Comfortably as any of her neighbors, She told us she had ten sheep, & that she had the wool spun, & was afterward inform'd by their Minister she last year made fourteen yards of Cloth, when we were willing to pay her for the Lamb we had Receiv'd from her but wish'd she might kill no more for Us, that we wanted them the Indians to get a great many more Sheep so that they might make their own Cloathing, she said she did not propose killing any more

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more that she should not have killed that, but she thought she must for us who had come so far to see them, neither did not want any pay for it, At several different times the Woman has afforded sufficient tokens of friendshiptheir gratitude by their bowls of strawberries brought us—

26th: It being first day held our little meeting in our Landlord’s House none but our selves present –

Captain Hendrick gave me an history relating to the Circumstance of their Nation the Stockbridges giving the Remains of the Delawares our Edgpelick Indians title of Grandfathers, and the Edgpelick them Grandson that it was from an Antient Covenant between them, that the Delawares in their general Counsels, had a very strong Voice which sunk deep in their hearts, and that they were apt to give advice to the other Nations,

There’s one circumstance that might have been in a more proper place perhaps, that is with respect to the Brotherton People, by profession they are Baptists, they have no set preacher but are in the practice of holding meeting on first day twice in the forenoon and afternoon, when some of them either Men or Women speak as they feel an inclination, as they hold it right for Women to Speak, the day we were with them David Fowler & son David both spoke the father appear'd in supplication prayer, From our feelings we doubted their foundation being[?] upon that which was not Immovable, so we perceiv'd in the interval for whilst the Commissioners who were here upon the Oneidas Complaint, they sent one of their number Isaac Wabe a young man One of their Peacemakers to propose to them their request them to acquaint their Brethren of the home fraternity that they were without a Minister that they would Interceed and use their endeavors  to provide and[?] send them a Preacher, by this piece of conduct we may readily call in question their foundation of standing firm & Secure, in the faith that they

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professing to be Baptists should desire the Presbyterians to furnish them with a Preacher.

27th: Made ready for the Oneidas Counsel in the morning whilst at Breakfast a few lines was brought to us from a Chief of the Tuscaroras informing that we the Quakers must not go to the Oneidas to counsel but that the Oneidas would come to them at Stockbridge that he was desired so to do by them, so we waited with considerable degree of patience having experienced it an article very necessary in transacting business with these People as they seldom appear in a hurry and in an especial manner their Counsels, but this day almost exhausted all our store for the day ended & we heard no tidings from them — 28th: This morning somewhat wet or else we had concluded to have all went but after some time concluded to send to know the reason of their disappointing Us, was accordingly sent and after some time return'd with a salmon Fish in his bag, and an answer to Us that they had gone to Fort Stanwix to receive a part of their annual pay from Government & that it was not likely we could[?]not have an opportunity before the day after tomorrow, which afresh discovers our necessity of multiplying our patience on this

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To the great Sachem and Chiefs of the State of New-York, now sitting around the great councill fire at New-York

Brothers, Before you cover your council-fire, We beg your at tention to the Voice of your Brethren the different Tribes living Oneida Country – speaks to you in remembrance of the friend ship you have manifested toward them in all their Treaties We ourselves have held Counsels at different times to contemplate the welfare of our nations, because we cannot but groan to see our situation – It is also melancholy to reflect on the ways of our forefathers

Brothers you are sometimes sorry to see the deplorable situ ation of your Indian Brethren, for which you have given us many good Counsels though we feel ourselves willing to follow your Counsel, though we feel ourselves willing to follow your Counsel, but it has made no effect as yet our situation is still miserable – Our ancestors were Conquered immediately after you came over this Island – By the strong heroe who does still reign among Indian Tribes with tyranny, -- who has rob'd us every thing that was precious on our eyes– But we not men tion everything particular how this Tyrant has used us – For your eyes have been open to behold our dismal Situation – By the power of our enemy our eyes have been blinded. – Our Young men seems become willing Slaves to this Despotic Heroe – so that we displeased the great Spirit Good spirit, and could not become Civilized People – in looking back we see nothing but desolation of our mighty men – In looking forward we see the desolation of our tribes – Our Chiefs has used their

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endeavors to reform their respective People but having seen no success they seems discouraged and hang down their heads. ~

Brothers – In remembrance of your kind promises We write our cries to you for help – Perhaps you are ready to think what man that must be that has abused so much of our Brethren – never was such Heroe or Tyrant heard that ever meddled with Indians – but in literally he is your only begotten son – & his name you call Rum – And the names of his Officers are Brandy - Wine & Gin –

And we know you have power to controul him – And as we desire to live in peace & to become Civilized nations – We earnestly entreat you to use your power & Wisdom to prevent all people whether White or Black who may cause rum and other Spiritous liquors throughout your State to come into the hands of our Tribes except when sickness required our Chiefs may keep little for that purpose – For your compliance with this our request – We will ever acknowledge your friendship

Done at the Oneida Village on the 15th of March 1796 is from your Brethren Chiefs of Warriors of Oneida Nation John Thonnodogh Crisdian Thonighgwensora Wm Thadighgwesora Shagoghgludaha Thawighdot Cornelius Hanoyong Of Tuscarora Nicholas Cusich David Tyodeaseagwinde Peter Dyongevet Of Musseconnuk Or Stockbridge Hendrick Aupaumut Joseph Quinney Joseph Shauquithqueath [Note: written vertically in right margin]

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29th: made ready, went to Oneida to meet them in Counsel intending to hastening the Opportunity, but got disappointed this time likewise, they had return'd from Stanwix but informa tion was wrong with respect to the occasion of their going, it being on account of their being inform the Surveyors that was employ'd by government were about to Survey more of their land than in their Treaty they had agreed for that necessity required their speedy attention thereto however our earnestness for transacting of business, did not move them from their usual Deliberation, for when we informed them that we were desirous of meeting them to day they seemed to make an essay thereto, by sending a runner to bring them to Counsel, but after some time we were informed there could be no Counsel today that they had in Companies gone to their Corn field to hoe their Corn, that tomorrow they would meet us, this is the fourth day we have waited their motion without doing any business or advancing one step forward, after taking a Dinner with them of Venison & Pigeon returned, to our welcome home

30th: About 8 o’clock we had the renewing sight of our long looked for friend Jacob Taylor who arriv'd with the goods at Fort Shylor yesterday about 11 o’clock, informed Us that he set out from Philadelphia on the 9th arriv'd at New-York the 17th at Albany stay'd there two days and on the 21st arrived at Albany both nearly one day land carriage from thence to Schenectady 22nd about 11 o’clock left that place and about the same time in the day of the 29th arrived at Fort Schyler freight & wagon load fromfrom the one to other of the last named places, is 11 Dollars Boat carrying four

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load Wagon Load the takes three hands to work the Boat distance from Schnedctada to Schyler ninety miles is there’s an addition to the expense of 16 Shilings or 4/0 [?] Wagon load or 4/0[?] Wagon load for passing the locks at the Falls

In some time after Breakfast set off for the Counsel at Oneida met them about 11 O’clock, after sitting a short time they mentioned by the Interpreter Jacob Reed that they had considered our propositions and then stated the Objections, which appeared to us somewhat reasonable, they mentioning a place for our farm less injurious to them, upon viewing the place con cluded to fix our farm there, [?] which we inform'd them then they appeared well pleas'd with our conclusions & the Counsel concluded for the present, we then rented a house of one of their Chiefs (whose mother we spoke with, her Children informed us was 100 years Old) for 20 Dollars Cash down & the same [?] Year as long as we should have occasion for it with conditions of finishing it after which return'd to our quarters at Stockbridge

7th Month. First. This morning early three of us set of to look after our goods to use means to get them to our new settlement likewise to buy a yoke of oxen, a cart & some other things to accommodate our new farm & toward Housekeeping, we breakfasted at Brothertown my old hom with my old Landlady Sarah Tupic, then we parted Jacob Taylor going forward to set after the goods he had under his care at Fort Schylers they left and the other friend & myself went in Quest

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of a Yoke of Oxen. About the middle of the day met with a yoke which we bought for 90 dollars, took them to Whites town where we lodged, this evening unwell had a bowl of catnip tea prepard, drink'd it and went to bed, Rested pretty well in the .

7th mo2nd The seventh day of the week, did not rise very early in the morning, after rising & washed attending attended to the business for which I had come out upon and about nine o’clock, my esteem'd friend Joshua Evans came to my lodgings (at a Tavern with two other Friends, the Name of the One Solomon HeightDutches County Washington township living at Nine Partners & Thomas Almy from Schoharry County  Dunlough township about 28 miles from Coopers town 14 miles from Cherry Valley after my I had done with the publick concerns on which I had went come out upon, went with the afore said friends set out forBrothertown settlement where our sd friend Joshua had a Draft in Love to visit them, at fort Schyler last night a House was Burnt down, and a child of about 6 years old burnt in it, it is supposed she it was set it on fire by by the Child consumed in the flames in a room. About four O’clock came to Brothertown and put up our horses in the pasture of George Crosly. Two of Us staid their myself & one of the other friends went to J. Tupics my Old quarters[?] where we lodg'd, nextthis morning being the 2nd of the month & 4th of the Week we meet with

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3rd of the Month & first of the Week, having last evening inform'd some of People that our friend propos'd having a Meeting with them desiring them to give notice thereof, at the usual time of 10 OClock we went to th after some time our friend spoke in his usual plain manner with life, in the after noon went to their afternoon meeting, after a little time of silence some there appeared in some that they thought there a disposition to be doing something that they might be employ'd externally as though the Almighty could not know how the heart was engag'd except the Tongue express'd it our friend again express'd as at the former willing his desire for them that they might feel after that that worship which was inward and spiritual, and not so much after a formal & Outward One, when the meeting ended After taking our leave of them in a friendly manner some of them acknowledging that it was a mark of much love to come to see them from who were so far. We allAndRode to our quarters at Stockbridge altho late in after noon, and Wet withal, likewise my own situation being such that I should have been willing to have staid all Night just before the close of the afternoon meeting felt Chilly had [?] Evening as that on Sixth day evening last, which wasfor the first, which was, taken it was afore there appear'd a necessity for our returning this evening. John Pierse one of our Company & C Hendrick having information from my Companions on sixth day to Whitestown at their return to our Friends, that our friend Joshua had gone to Brothertown to have a meeting with them this day, They came to the meeting, and J.P. inform'd Us They had

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notified the Stockbridges to meet them in Counsel tomorrow morning at 9 OClock, we about such set came to our Old quarters C. Hendricks with our [?] friends J.E. and the two York friends.

4th: of the Month. met the Stockbridges according to appointment. Read them our propositions, of what we had thought of doing for them, which were that we concluded to assist them in Building them a Grist Mill so that we would pay of the sd expences exclusive of what work they themselves did in getting the Timber and all other things they could do within themselves, three Doler[?] tho of the cost, they to be at rest But if Government came forward to build their Mill, as in Their treaty it was agreed they should be done at Publick cost, then when ever it tothey should refund all our money back to Us again -- That they should have our Smiths Tools, that we would would give 100 Dollars to their Schoolmaster for Teaching one Year provided they to make up the rest provided he produces a testimony Signed by two of their Chiefs that the School had been regularly kept for the time,-- That we That to encourage their improvement in husbandry we had thought of propose giveing them a Bounty for every 12 Yds. of Cloth or linnen manufactured of Wooll or Flax rais'd by any Individual & manufactured by such an individuals Wife in his or her own house for every such 12 Yds one Dollar for every 50 Busls. of Wheat, 2 Dollars, for every 100 Busls of Indian Corn 2 Dollars, and for every 3 Ton of hay cut & put into Stack or Barn by any Individual rais'd by him or her in one yearoff of ther off of their farm 2 Dollars, provided he or she produce a Certificate signed by two of their Chiefs to the Truth

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after those offers were read by Hendrickson & Interpretted they were advis'd to watchfulness & care over themselves that they did not let their inclination to strong Liquor be their ruin, but those who were so weak as to gaddicted to be allways upon their guard and never use it at all, that they would should be industrious & not love to be running about but to stay at home & mind their own business that they thereby with a divine blessing would have plenty to live on the Great Spirit would no doubt be pleas'd with such a life as this & that if they did but mind that inward something in their own breasts that made them feel Quiet and Peaceable for well doing, and on the contrary for getting drunk and other Evil things which displeased the Great Spirit they felt sorrow & Disquiet in their hearts. Then after sitting a short time Hendrick in behalf of the his people spoke to this effect that they were glad of to hear our words that they would endeavor to mind them, That they were glad of the our offer to them that they believed we were there true Friends. But that he remembered that we said that after trying them for a while and there appeared no improvement among them that then we should be discouraged from giving them any more assistance, which he hoped might not be the case\* But if they should make improvement they wanted to know if their Brothers and friends the Quakers would then continue to help them or no. They were answered we were in hopes that if they were but industrious and sober and minded our counsel & our friends instruction that stayed with them

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they would want but little more help from their friends the Counsel pretty soon broke up after this this appear'd to be but an artfull Query to draw from Friends a promise altho it might be but a slender one yet they would hold them bound to their engagements thereby as tho there were or had been the strongest covenants, so the Counsel ended. In the afternoon our friend Joshua had a meeting with them to a pretty good degree of satisfaction, having before at the Counsel mentioned it & the appointed time—

5th. This morning took a puke of our Indian Doctress’s preparing which pretty soon work'd me, that & other things seem'd to help me for this being my fit day it ended & felt nothing of it, the rest of the day was by some of us employ'd in preparing letters to forward to our friends, & others on concerns to our business.

6th: This day held the last Counsel with the Oneidas got there between 9 & 10, time enough to receive the Friend with part of our goods, after dinner rec'd the rest in a broken Waggon goods none damaged. Between 2 & 3 the Counsel met there appearing at first as tho we should be frustrated one of our having return'd from visiting the Interpreter J. Read & informed us he was so in liquor which set discoura ging, a young man was apply'd to who came with restrictions[?] by importunity by some of our company he was one of of their People a very Comely Genteel modest person who it was said could Interpret very well, but had not been accustomed to it, therefore modestly refused after some time the Old Interpreter came altho he appeared a little in

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yet we believed he was not so much as to render him incapable and after a little time appeared it with repeating & Imprinting the former agreement between Us and them relative to our farm & things relative, to the carrying it on, which was now drawn and signed by Us, with a request that if they agree'd to them that their Chiefs would do so too, which they accordingly did, We endeavor'd to impress their Chiefs with the need there was for them to be kind to our Young Men who stay'd with them for their good and to watch over their young men andthat they should not be abusive to them when they were in Liquor. If they should what a grief it would be to their parents to hear of any such things towards their sons, after we expressing what we felt on the Occasion the Counsel concluded & we all returned to our old quarters to Lodge for the last night.

7th: This morning after breakfast, took our leave of our Stockbridgefriends, many of them coming to take their leave of bid us farewell, had a solid opportunity with them & parted not without considerable marks of respect from most more particularly from the women (who had all along discovered it by their strawberries & other [?] things for our sustenance,) went to our friends station, in order to take our farewell of where we came between 9 & 10 O’clock at our usual time we all sat down in our little meeting capacity to feel after, a little refreshment which some of were favored with I believe, then took dinner at Schonodores[?]

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whilst at Dinner our friend Joshua felt his mind drawn towards having a sitting infarewell opportunity with this people, there appear'd more of them [?] Men & Women than we had seen together at one time before, it might be to bid us farewell perhaps, notwithstanding we seem'd to have cleared out with them Yesterday, tho not very satisfactorily, we thought well of his proposition, they were inform'd of it, and were willing, then we carried seats for ourselves a little distance from the House & sat down in the sun, Jacob Reed Interpreter who to day was perfectly sober, they presently spread themselves round about us on the ground, some sitting, others lying, they in general sat quiet and still, during the time were together we most of Us had to acknowledge much more to our satisfaction than yesterday’s at the close day, they expressing their satisfaction with the opportunity partic ly the women. Then return'd to our friends Home & got our Horses ready for starting, when ready took a farewell of our young friends with much affection, [?] regard it being a time of reflection upon these lonely situation but they were then we mounted not without Seriously reflecting at on their Station and Situation.

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We left Oneida Castle between 3 and 4 O’clock, with our faces toward the western country with full expectations of seeing strange faces and meeting with new exercises. Road this afternoon 12 miles and lodg'd at Jacob

an Indian farmer who kept a Dram Shop tho it’s under the character of a Tavern, he is settled on the Oneida reservation nearby the out borders.

Eighth, This morning started before sunrise rode 6 ½ between 6 and 7 miles to and Breakfasted with Elijah Philips for several miles altho lately setted yet highly unproved some

The Eighth this morning started before sunrise rode between 6 & 7 Miles to Breakfasted with Elijah Philips for several Miles altho lately setted yet highly improv'd some

The Eighth this morning started before Here being six of these farmers setted together, having been brought up with the Dutch, have an experimental knowledge of farming business, but from our observation, their Original disposition & habit remains even with them, for our landlords wife was an Oneida bred, even for their habits he with considerable part himself being possessed of considerable share of their national Indhabits of indolence, he having a white man a Tenant, who gives him one half that’s rais'd, which appears chief of their subsistence.

The Eight started before sunrise rode to breakfast 6 ½ miles with at an inn, Elijah Philips keeper and when we had breakfasted mounted mounted & rid 11 miles to Major Danfords where we Bated our horses & got some victuals ourselves, this morning ride altho thro a new setted country yet very considerably

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improv'd, their improvements in grass is wonderfull. Timothy in a exceedingly luxuriant there appearing to be no little no great difference in the Height of the Wheat in the adjoining Lott & it, so that where we Breakfasted the man had considerable of his ground under such like Grass and said he believed theyit would yield him three Tons to the Acre-- After we had eaten at Danfords went to with the Onandogos Interpreter to their settlement about 3 miles from unfavorable Circumstance attending this interview, there being but few at Home having gone to the Lake to fish & hunt, thereit appearing best to take this opportunity altho with but two of their Chief & a few others who we thought might communicate what little we had thought of doing for them to the Rest, the Interpreter seem'd so Interested for the Indians welfare made no' doubt but that it would be done; they appearing not satisfied because thesewe did not offer them enough or as much as they wish'd, for he had imbib'd an Idia[?] that we proposed to bring them Oxen & from that notion neglected Laying out their own money for Oxen when received but a few months back, the Interpreters name Ephraim Webster. He seems very much Interested on account account of them for their welfare seemingly with a great deal of sincerity, appearing to be a man of inte grity, he Inform'd they were so improvident as to Sell their Blankets which they received of Government Annually for Rum before they would get home, this was the

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care of most, some few excepted, who had more prudence than to sell their Cloathing just as winter approaches and that their money they received appeared a greater injury than Service, that it was more frequently as is the saying Eaten up before they received it than otherwise that they have to redeem their Guns of the White people when receivedthey receive their money. After our opportunity with them return'd and staid all Night at Danfords

This morning the Eighth Ninth I got a mile on our way by Sunrise, Breakfasted at Moses Carpenter’s 15 miles, after which we rode to Henry More’s 12 miles who lives about two miles from the ferry Road over the LakeCayuga Lake, towards Scipio Town, where we Bated & got our Diners after which went near the settlement of theCayuga’s 5 miles to Frederick Geerhearts. This morning for about nine mile we rode on the Onondago reservatio sold to Government last year, Surveyors employ'd now in dividing it into Plantations Lotts the rest of the way, except near Geerhearts on the Military Lands, very little improv'd but very little improv'd, mostly in the hands of Land Jobers who purchased them of the

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poor Soldiers, pretty much at the same rate the public Securities were purchased of them even at a very inconsiderable price - We were inform'd that there were but of very few of the Original who retain'd their Lands. We found the Cayuga’s settlement was about two & an half Miles from the place we now are were at, at our request, Frederick went with us to their Settlement & to the Wigwam of a young couple the man an Oneida his wife of the Stockbridge his name John Jourden They who saidthey spoke pretty good English, his having the language so well was the reason of his being among them as an Interpreter for them having their Language likewise. We mentioned to him our business he understood and define of having them together in a few hours, but he inform'd us they were gone a Hunting & could not comebe got together before tomorrow about ten O’clock, which would disconcerted our plan very much intending to have moved forward toward Canadaquaafter the Op when our business was gone through with them, there were a few of them at home however therefore had them summoned together, but there when together there number being so inconsiderable that it could not be satisfactory nor best to go into the business with them at this time, & tomorrow being first day we could not fully approve of Meeting them on business then, least the people round about might take occasion to vilify Us. Under these several considerations concluded to stay in the place & meetfor them to meet Us about sunrise Second

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day morning. Left them they were to send for the rest that we might see them all together, then Left them and returned to our Pilot’s to his house where we proposed to him & wife if they were free, of staying till we had the proposedour opportunity with the Indians they seemed free - When we found we were like to stay in the neighborhood tomorrow our friend Joshua proposed before we left the Indians of having a meeting with them in the afternoon & let them know it desiring that they would acquaint all their People thereof, When we returned several of the neighbors were there, acquainted them of our meeting tomorrow morning at our Quarters, our Landlords & Wife’s liberty having been previously gotten, they having liv'd at Great Valley in Pennsylvania untill about seven years ago then Pack'd up their alls having & three Children one Daughter married who with their family[?]also without ever seeing the place till they came, the Indians gave them the liberty of setting on their land at that time it was There’s last fall it where he now lives but last fall it was purchased with itit’s in that part purchased by Government last fall, but he is to keep his titleimprovements by paying the everidge[?] price of those lands when sold~

Tenth of the month and first of the week, at the time appointed several of the neighbors came, & set down with us in silence under the shade of a Tree to a good degree of satisfaction. One of the neighboring women informed us she had been brought up in the Neighborhood

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of Friends on Rhode Island that her Husband was a had been a member of our Society that his Parents were now members, they had liv'd in this neighbor place about four years, that he was now gone to the Westward and had not yet returned. Her heart seem'd much affected, & seem'd under concern because she knew not where her lot would be cast, expressing her satisfaction if there was but a meeting near her, at partingshe[?] desired our company at her house, if we could but, expressing herthe satisfaction it would be to her. We near the time appointed went to attend the appointed meeting with the Indians, when we got there sat down with the company of our Landlord & a few others that was at the meeting at his house in the morning, which ended without the Company of any of our Indian Brethen friends oh not an individual attended. Even the interpreter abseanted himself which we thought more singularmanifested there a singular indifference toward Us as he had, had a Colledge Breeding[?] we understood. After a short time in sitting together we went to our quarters~

Eleventh, Showery morning which was acceptable it now having had the appearance of a Drowth, there having fell but little Rain since we came into the Indian Country. got Breakfast and setted with our landlord for the time of our Quartering with him, who seem'd much more moderate in his Charges than most of the places were where we partook of their provision, he & Wife making Us heartily treating us with Civility & Respect finishing with the best they had & that very good, she having received her instruction education near Philadelphia is not to be so much marveled at. After which we Bid our

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host and family farewell. Rode to the Indian Interpreter’s, the place appointed, they having not as yet come neither were many more expected than these were on Seventh day when we left them, after some time there sachem

one Chief & one Warrior, with four of their women which made up the Counsel, they inform'd us that whatever proposition we made them should be delivered to the rest, so that they were willing to receive what we had to say, We found them pretty much in the same situation with the Onondagos, treated them made them nearly the same offers, which they said they were glad to hear from Us and should in the fall send some of their Boys to us to school. Besides Educating and learning several of their lads trades, we told both these and the Onondagos, they should have some axes & hoes sent them in the Spring, their situations are very similar as to subsistence having their whole dependence on Wild game and fish both are very plenty, these last have the advantage of the others there so being so near the Lake their huts standing near the brink, at any time they go out may in a short time take a dozen or two of very large fat eels, much fatter in the opinion of such of the Company as had been acquainted with this kind of fish than they had ever seen before, as well as much larger; they take them with the spear, and so they do the Pike which which is also of a superior size, between 3 & 4 feet in length, to weigh near 20 weight. We now left them 2 ½ miles from our Quarters, to their Castle[?] from thence to 7 Miles more to the ferry rode near the lake, land of a very different kind from the county in general having a Barren appearance, the timber almost altogether white oak, the Timber short trees low, and not as we got to the ferry and in the turn we took to the Indian

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settlement from M. Carpenters where we breakfasted. Rode about twenty seven and an half Miles when if we had kept the common road we should not have rode no more than Twenty. ThereforeAt this ferry the keeper John Harris from Harrisburg in Pennsylvania, we found a very convenient boat in which the ferryman said he had carried thirty head of Cattle at a time. There was seven of Us in Company with Horses who all got into the wind being fair we were just twenty Minutes by my watch from the time we started from one shore untill we got out on the opposite one the distance by measurement we were inform'd had been taken when the waters were frozen one & a quarter miles & some perch. Now on this shore we met with another Pennsylvan ian of the name of James Bennit near Harrisburg his wife of the family of the Richardsons who were at the Valley forge have been settled here six years. This ferry appears to be a place of much business as its the alone passage by land to the Western country, the lake forty miles in length & in some places four in Breadth. Here we Bated our horses on hay & got dinner, having in our company the Post who rides from Whites town to Canadockway thought it best to keep his Company notwithstanding it rain'd, having began since our getting over the ferry, he proposing reach ing Geneva this afternoon which should was in distance fourteen miles; therefore mounted our horses in the rain and as we rode the rain increased so that it may be said we had indeed a very Rainy Ride all the way till we got to port. This land between the two lakes call'd the Military Tract unsettled except a very few new beginnings, of a good fertile appearance Timbered not unlike our best land the land in our Country of the best Quallity

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quallity with Black Oak, White Oak, Hickory in places likewise Beech, maple, ash, not so lofty as it hath been in many other parts we have of this county we rode thro, at Geneva we stayed all night. This place it seems takes its name from a town in Switzerland which it resembles, standing at the north West corner of the Lake which is said to be forty miles long, two miles short of the Cayuga is the Head or Upper extent of the Water communication from Albany into this country from Albany up the Mohawk. It’s a very pretty situation on the banks of the lake several well looking Buildings of [?] Houses and Stores put up & more going up there it’s believ'd that it will be a place of considerable trade here we saw a Vessel upon the Stocks it was said to be a Shallop, to be kept employ'd in trading on this Lake there being a town at the upper end of it which they call Catherene’s Town

Twelfth this morning rainy. Did not start untill we had our Breakfast then the rain abated, prepared for moving by this time it cleared away, the post still our guide. We had a pretty comfortable ride much more so than we expected from the representation we received of this part of the Road, whenever it became the subject of conversation being represented as Intolerable the dry weather having been much in our favor in this respect as in many others, this morning’s ride to Canandaigua which is said to be tho we Rode a new road which is suppos'd to be much more than 16 miles, This lake is said to be 24 Miles in length. We don’t find this off from This town situated as Geneva lying near the brink of the Water but pass by[?] the Lake & on rising ground from the Lake nearly half a mile in the town several showey Houses, [?] frame ⟨buildings⟩ and painted

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White. They have laid out a Six Rod Road from the Lake for a considerable distance back, by which the buildings the Houses stand; there’s now 25 frame besides several log houses Erected, here stands their Courthouse. This is called Ontario County. having put up at a public house & got Dinner, went to Israel Chaping’s to learn whether the Indians further West were dispos'd to receive friends offers. We find him not to live in Opulence not even equal to what we had expected, but he has a appears a sober discreet well behaved person & informed Us that Indians generally favor'd our Offers; Cornplanter was the only tribe who favored our settling with them as  after after a short opportunity, concluded we would leave this business for a few days and recruit our selves among our friends at Mud Creek & Horses in Company with our friend Joshua Evans (who now had now come to the end of his Journey, (having now come to us again [?] he having found Just at our first coming to the Lake about three miles back had found one of those friends he came to this Country to see his name William Ingle) we mounted our Horses for Mudd Creek having for our pilot Jared Comstockwho was in Town, son of Nathan Comstock The place where we propos'd going to in about five miles on the way parted, J.P. & I.R. went to Jacob Smith’s

the other three of Us kept with our Pilot & in five miles more got to his father’s after Riding from Canadarkway 10 miles & nearly as bad road as we have found in this Country.

Thirteenth. After breakfast, the friendJared Comstock our Pilot walk'd with Us to Abraham Lapham’s about three miles distance where we was kindly received by himself & wife as we were at the friends where we staid last Night who land

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Here we find five families of our wanderingseated with wanderedfriends seated on in what was seven years ago a Wilderness, four hundred miles from their native homes & their kindred, in Boston or Massachusetts state, on land of a superior kind, having now, fields of Indian Corn, Wheat, Grass, Buildings where they seem to enjoy a plenty of the things of Life in a plain Homespun manner; their land seems wonderfully adapted to Indian Corn & Grass. They take a piece of their lofty timbered land in the winter & spring, along Cut the Timber off by the first of the Fifth Month when they with the Hoe only without any other Operration put the corn in about three feet each way, the Customary of the Corn way of planting indistance of planting their Corn, this seems to be the main part of the Labour for a Crop, then cut up some few weeds that comes up among the Corn, rarely doing any more to it, not even hilling itself, till the Crop comes to perfection; this practice was performed to a field of nearly ten acres of Nathan Comstock which in the fall last was cloth'd with living timber now is in a beautiful field of Corn planted after the twentyeth of the fifth Month, their corn yealds them from twenty to forty bushels to the Acre by their information. In this settlement is many more families professers with friends from the same place and places adjacent. This Country is divided in Countys, the Counties in to townships of six miles  23040 acres, these Townships in to lots of 320 Acres each numbered so many lots seven years ago last fall the purchase of this Township was for 1152 pounds, now one of these lots will sell

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or hath been sold for £1600 which serves to show the rapid increase of this Country.

Fourteenth our friend J. Evans had a meeting at Nathan Comstocks having before inform'd friends they the Neighbors at or near the time they met & had a favor'd opportunity at the close intimated he had desired them who were or had disown'd or stood so, with those who are members, which was

Fourteenth our friend Joshua Evans mentioning his a mind, of having a meeting at the place we were at N. Comstock’s, there being information thereof given to friends and Neighbors, who met (and our friend had an open time amongopportunity with them, at the close of the after which he mentioned a desire of an he had some few of having an opportunity with those who were mem bers in company with together with such as stood disown'd. They accordingly collected into a together when he their state & situation seem'd to be opened pretty clearly, setting before them the great danger, without living near to that divine principal within them of their becoming a Reproach to the Name they made profession of, the condition of their Children [?] for want of the Hedge of the Discipline kept up around them by the way would go of into Irregularities and Immoralities and thereby suffer great loss, and for want of this Hedge which has such a tendency of Keeping sweet and Clean, there would be a falling into one thing after another to the great grief of such among them as beheld the great beauty there was in holiness endeavoring to impress their minds with the absolute necessity of feeling deeply by after help, & that theirthey might have their eyes might be [?]opened, if this come to be the case they could not become content short of a reconciliation with their friends again that which would much contribute to their welfare, with their

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their own endeavors, to maintain the truths of the Gospel, in a Pious Godly Life, by this they might become bright shining lights in this place, and be as Salt having a good savor among the People. It appear'd a time of deep thoughtfulness to many minds, that and cannot but believe there are a considerable number who are under concern on account of their dangerous situation who are well concern'd friends. After noon return'd to Canadarkway to meet our Company likewise met with them at Israel Chapin’s where we took Tea and after some further information from him respecting our Business further West, returned to the Tavern where we yesterday put up Dudly’s to~[?]

There seems a doubt in some of our minds whether there’s necessity of going further west or returning homewards, not having received answers to the Queries, to the different tribes last spring that they have that they are desirous we should assist them in the way propos'd in the Queries, except Cornplanterwhowith a few others who incline to his counselis we are inform'd requests Friends’ assistance, this circumstance turning up as we so that we postpone the resulting untill some future time bearing the subject weighing it in our minds until, we may be nearly ready for a move forward, in there being need of two or three days detention in this place on several accounts~

Fifteenth, this day chiefly taken up in getting our Horses shoes examined & shod for which we had to pay fourteen shilling for shoeing a Horse [?] Round, towards evening J. Pierce and I. Rowland went to their former home toward at Mud Creek, Jacob Smith’s, having a mind to be at the

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meeting tomorrow appointed by our friend J.E. the other two J.S. & my self stay'd at oun retired Public House, having had every little interruption from Crowds of Company which on some accounts made the place agreeable, but the reason why it was so made an dispos'd Us to seek a new one, their poor provision & inattention (which we were witnesses unto) as from information was the Occasion of our happening with respect to the little company at this place, however our [?] horses could not be done before Evening made our stay here one Nightmare.

Sixteenth took breakfast with atwith our landladys, which wason very bad made Coffee and Toast without Butter or Cheese having neither, after which prepar'd for a move for new Quarters. Settled the Bill and for this Breakfast paid 2/0, then mounted our horses & rode to William Ingles the place where we left J.E.and we wenton our way to Canadarque, where we were kindly received by him & Wife, being glad as they said when they met with any from near Philadelphia the Woman a member of all their Children which is seven, the Man disowned for some transaction in the difficultys during the Commotions when friends in this Land respecting War when many more were set and still stands as he now does

Since my being among these people in their settlement have felt an exercise on my mind on their Truths as well as their account; many of their Wif Wives and more of their Children having an actual Right in society they all up taking here they be without any outward Helps, nothing more likely than for them to fall into Irregularities of one kind or another, till they bring Reproach on themselves

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Still, under all such Immoralities let it be ever so Heinous to in the Eyes of all Sober people of whatever denomination yet still they are members, and are distinguished from other denominations of the place by Quakers, to the very great reproach of the Holy profession of the Truth which we hold forth to the World that I do verily believe it’s a matter which does deeply concern Society least they become a Blemish and Spot in the Church, and instead of becoming Lights to the people of the place where they are planted in will be as Blocks & hindrences in the way of such who are of enquiring minds after the way to Truth & Peace as I make no doubt there be such in this place, as well as in most others, That they may be helped with a little with a little help is the very great desire of my mind. There we staid all Night, with with [?] to be at a meeting our friend J. E. Appointed here tomorrow.

Seventeenth we had a satisfactory meeting this morning, most of neighboring people came and sat Commendably still and quiet several came from the Town, as our said friend came through town his company Abraham Lapham invited to said meeting, they seem'd to admire that it had not been held in town some of whom were the principal people of the place, offering the Court House if he would appoint a meeting in the afternoon which they seem'd desirous of. Our friend seem'd to incline so to do & accordingly notice was given & four o’clock the time appointed to meet. Near the the time several of our friends went in company with our said friends to the meeting who said it was to their satisfaction, a considerable number of the people attending of the town attending. There’s not any meeting of any denomination near this place.

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Eighteenth, This [?]

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7th Month 19thStarted from CanadarkwayLodg'd at last Night Canadadarkway with our faces set Homeward, breakfasted at our friend William Engles two miles from Town then from thence 20 miles to the Head of the Lake where we Dined at Thence to 6 miles but thinking we might reach some further rode 3 miles and staid at

Hookers all Night where our horses fair'd poorly if we had but staid at the other stage three miles short, horses might faired pretty well. Twentieth rose by the time it was well Light prepar'd and mounted rode to Bath 20 miles, here is several cross'd the

three times on which this settlement is, whatever inducement of the founder of this town is a secret to us, why it should be on so extreme unfertile a Soil, equal to the meanness of our Gloucester Pine Land for several miles distance to be sure yet there’s a narrow strip of middling good Bottom near the Brook on each side, but in our opinion no ways to compare with the greater part of the Bottom land in general here’s several good well looking Frame Houses, our Stage John Madcalf Public House, here we took Breakfast & Dinner in the same Meal between eleven & twelve, again mounted, in about one Mile distance stopp'd at William Kersey’s, who about

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two month since came to this place with his wife and familyto the Place friend who a few years ago was in good esteem, he acts in the capacity of surveyor and sits in the seat as second judge of the

courts, lives in a very small log House atnear the brink of a small Lake, appearing to us very singular, were told its half a mile from one shore to the Opposite one, nearly bound, that in some parts had been fathomed to the depth of 40 Fathom without reaching bottom, no visible streams in nor out of it multitudes of fish of various kinds some to be seen in deep water of a large kind; lands round about Laid out 12 Acre lots as tho navagible water stream a short distance from this William son in about Building his House to reside live in, its cause of admiration to see the Choice of this Wise Rich Man, who having such an extent of excellent Land, yet make choice of so extreme poor soil to seat himself on spot, this in the the county town, from hence we went to the Painted Post 18 miles, went two miles East of this place to a little town to lodg this afternoons ride most of the way on a Soil producing little else but Pitch Pine of very small size Cross a very high hill, the keeper of the Inn’s name

Patterson in this Town three stores & Post Office kept, Past rides to here had very good accommodation for selves & Horses

Twenty first, started pretty early and Cross'd the

at the Painted Post rode by the Tioga in the water of which we saw a large flock of Ducks, they forc'd up the stream

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faster than our common Gate had to hasten very much to pass them after which stopt in full view near the water edge they still remaining in the water 14 miles we rode this morning to Breakfast at the Widow Lindsley this morning rode on the Bottom land which is called the Hazel Bottom covered with little else, cros'd the Tioga three times from whence rode 15 miles cross'd the stream

times and Lodg'd at William Carters who a few years since settled moved here from the Jerseys, he having been a native of Greenwich, Cumberland County in Jersey, Not having rode very far Twenty second this day got in early, took supper early & went to bed, that we might be prepar'd for an early start in the morning having a very disagreeable tedious Journey in view tomorrow agreeable to the representation from all who knew anything about it we having prevailed upon our this nights landlord to go with us and be pilot partly from importunity, partly on inclination and considerably upon our prosess of rewarding him having the main part of his families subsistence & Travelers wh there being Eleven of them, and Travellers subsistence, except meat to bring thro this Wilderness on Horseback, the Moon a little after its full, at twelve o’clock rise[?] & half past one mounted our horses & set out

Twenty second the Landlord our Pilot, the first part of our journey prety good which suited our the heavy Drowsy disposition we were in half past five in the afternoon came to James Thomsons by the Lycoming Water rode this day

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46 miles but in our opinions rode many Miles more, Bated three times in this days ride the subsistence[?] we and our Horses had this rout through we procured at the Widows Lindsley, yesterday, second time Bated at Anthony Sons twenty five miles from where we started in the morning at a very suitable stage in point of distance but in every other way miserable, having neither food for Man nor Horse, of an Infamous character & of such a nature that Travellers dreads the making a night stage of this place having reports on both sides that he’s both a murderer & Robber. By the time we got to Thompsonsboth our selves and Horses were thoroughly fatigued not having seen any other house but the sd house until we came within about three miles of our Quarters, it’s call'd the Wilderness for twenty miles of the way mountainous part very stony, other parts very Miry on greater part of the way has an appearance nearly alike much of the Land we have pass'd through in the Neighboring Country would do well to be settled upon settle on. The Top of this Mountain pretty levil until we came near the decent, where we have when we descend very fast for between some more than a Mile, while at the Top & in the decent saw Vapor Vapors rising and became Clouds below the Tops of the Mountains.

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Twenty third, Did not rise very early, examining our Horses found mine the back swollen, so that it would not be safe to Ride it, therefore concluded to clothe her only with the saddle & other appurtenances & I too take it a foot to our friends at Munsey which was about twenty miles, we thought it right now to part J.L.went concluded to go with our friend J.E. Likewise our Pilot still continuing their Pilot before we seperated made him a rewarded him with better than four Dollars, then we con cluded we were great gainers, without him we should have been in continual Anxiety about the way both as to the best as well as the right likewise the distance, between One & Two came to William Ellisses, not a mile from the Meeting House. I having walk'd cheaf chief of the way the other two spelling me by turns came this morning 20 miles, this morning crossed the Lycomming Waters several times, once crossed the Loyalsock Waters a little above where the two waters unite.

We here on the south side of the Wilderness find there harvest for the most part gathered, with all a wet harvest, whilst on the North Harvest not no Grain Harvested season very dry

Here we heard of singular circumstance of Person

a Frenchman who was

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on third day last about fording the Waters of the Loyalsock about twenty above the fork when his horse rear'd fell back upon his Rider near a Ripple Shortly was carried into a deep hole where an eddy drew him under, and among Trash of Timber lying under Water, notwithstanding the earliest search made by the person where he lodg'd having but just before at the brink of the water parted and return ing home from the water. in his own country He appears to be a Person of considerable note, also of large very exten sive property, having here, having Wife & family at Germantown or in that neighborhood.

Also another feeling account of

an Englishman a Friend who last Winter thought in time of snow on the ground would take his Gun & go out to try if he could not kill a Deer not intending as he said of staying longer than three or four hours, took three Dogs, his Company, pretty soon found him self bewildered, when he wandered for four days & three Nights in which time wore his shoes out then his Stockings. kill'd one of the dogs in his Extreme Necessity roasted some and eat of it wandering until had no more ability left

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in him then laid prepared himself for Death, when his neighbors who were in search of him found him

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Twenty fifth after Dinner rode to Little Fishing Creek 20 miles or nearly where we divided two of us put up at Jacob Clatonsto stay all night, the other two a half mile farther with Jesse Haines a Publick minister, both from Chester County above two years ago ---

Twenty Sixth went to John Loydds in Cattawissa 15 miles where we din'd said friend follows the Tanning Business is the son of John Loydd a Public friend from thence we rode to Frederic Levenburgh Where we lodg'd this house thirty by twenty five two story high without a single pane of Glass or any provision to put any in this afternoon rode 13 miles

Twenty seventh started without breakfast rode 17 miles to George Babor where we Bated & Breakfasted after which went to Richard Stevenses 11 miles and Bated from thence to John Stars 13 mils to & Lodged

Twenty eighth lay by on account of to recruit our Horses & Selves.

Twenty Ninth started rode through Reading to see the place 9 miles, from thence to the Widow Rutters Potts Grove 17 miles to Dinner from thence to Isaac Jacobs bank of Schuylkill 16 miles

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Thirtieth started road to Philadelphia in 25 miles, & after noon reach'd home

12 miles

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|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Miles | Miles |
| To Philadela.....12 To G. Town...6 To D. Cummineses..30th 27 Miles To Howels Ferry....23 To H. Clifton.....13-31st:36 To J. Mill.... 5 To J. Lundas....40-1st:45 To J.C. House....12 To J. Drakes....38-2nd:50 To N. Winser D.B....20 To E. Hallucks.....12-3rd:32 To Esopus.....22 To Kattskill.....2406th:46 To Baltimore.....22 To Albany.....10-7th:38 miles From Home to Albany...274 To Schanactada....14-8th:14 To Cagnawaga.....25 To Spragers Ferry....10-9th:35 To German Flats....28 To F. Schylers....17 To W. Town.....4-10th:49 To Stockbridges or Onedia Castle.....17-11th:17 From Albany to Oneida....115 To Indian Tavern.....12-7th:12 To Elijah Philips....6 1/2 To Asa Danford....11-8th:27 from Onedia to Onadago...39 1/2 | To M. Carpenters...15 To H. Mores....12 To F. Geerhearts....5.9th: Miles from Onondago to Cayuga...32 To Cayuga Castle...2 1/2 To Cayuga Ferry....7 Cross the Lake....[?] To Geneva....14-11th:24 To Canadarkway....16-12th:16 from Cayuga to Canadarkway..40 1/2 To W. Ingles....2 To H. of Lake...20 To Hookers....9 To Bath....20 To Painted Post....18-20th:38 To W. Lindleys 14 To W. Carters....15-21st:29 To J. Thompsons.....46-22nd:36 To W. Ellisses....20-23rd:20 To J. Claytons...20-25th:20 To J. Loydds...15 To F. Levenburgs....13-26th:28 To G. Rabers....17 To R. Stevenses....11 To J.Stars....13-26th:41 To J. Jacobs....42-29th:42 Home.....37-30th:37 from Canadarkway home...332 From Cayuga to Canadarkway...40 1/2 From Onandago to Cayuga....32 From Cayuga to Onandago.....39 1/2 From Albany to Onedia....115 from Home to Albany....274 833 |