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MONUMENT ON SANDY HOOK.



MONUMENT TO HAMILTON DOUGLASS HALIBURTON.

Sandy Hook is a sand bank stretching along the front of the Navesink hills at the lower extremity of Raritan bay, and, far Northward toward Staten Island. It was a cape until the year 1778, when a high sea, driven by a gale, forced a passage across it at the foot of the hills, and separated it from the main land. That passage was old Shrewsbury Inlet. It was closed in the year 1800, and remained so until 1830, when another passage at that

point was forced by the sea, and so it has remained an island ever since. It is about five miles in length from the Navesink hills to its northern extremity, whereon are now two light houses. There, before the late civil war, the National government commenced building a strong fortification to strengthen the defenses of the harbor of New York. The Hook is covered, to a great extent, by shrubs and dwarf trees.

This sand bank has been the scene of

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VOL. II.—No. 17.

13

of the Frontiers, and were seperated, by which it plainly appeared, they could not have refused to comply with his demand, as he had not made any demand on them, he having only desired that those Men might be put under the command of Collonel Bouquett which were raised only to defend the Inhabitants, within the purchased part of the Province and this the Governor could not comply with.

I told him that I, as well as the Governor did believe that if all the Assembly were called upon, the Assembly of Pennsylvania would grant money for raising men, but I did not know whether they might not tack conditions to it, contrary to the agreement made before the Council, and injurious to the King's prerogative, as destructive of the rights of Government, and asked him if he wished for their assistance on those Terms: he replied no, by no means'. This happened this morning, and as the Sloop of War that carrys Lord Hallifax's dispatches is not gone, I send this at his desire by her. All our best wishes attend you and your Brother. I am always

Your most affectionate Uncle
THOS. PENN.

London October 28, 1763.

I find there is not in Sir Jeffry Amherst's any reflections cast on Mr. Hamilton or any officer of the Government, but only on the Assembly.

[The letter from Mr. Sedgewick referred to contained the following passage: the letter was dated October, 25th:

"That by despatches Lately received from S^r Jeffry Amherst, it appeared that notwithstanding the alarming encrease of the Insurrections of the Indians, the Legislature of Pennsylvania had persisted in refusing to pay the Least regard to the earnest & repeated applications to S^r Jeffry, to provide for the defence of their Frontiers and assist the King's Troops in the general services of Defence and annoyance. That his Lordship having thereupon by Letter to your Deputy Governor which has been enclosed to S^r Jeffry, to be made use of or not, as occasion shall require, signified his Majesty's displeasure at such their conduct, & required them to contribute to their own Defence & even to the general operations, was desirous of acquainting you with these particulars, and of pointing out to you the expediency of your exerting your own endeavours to give success to that requisition (in case it should be found necessary to make it) by writing to the Deputy Governor & such other Persons as you might think proper. His Lordship is unwilling to give you the unnecessary trouble of coming to Town on purpose, but wishes you would lose no time in writing the Letters you may think proper & necessary upon this occasion, & shall be glad to see you when you come to Town."]

MAJOR WILLIAM FERGUSON.

The RECORD is indebted to Mr. S. D. Alexander, of New York City, for the following sketch of a brave officer of the army of the United States:

I rejoice that you are rescuing from oblivion the deeds of many revolutionary

¹ This was a serious time for the Anglo-American colonists. Peace with France had been secured by treaty, early in this year, but the Indian tribes were in arms in powerful force. French emissaries had stirred up the savages on the western borders of the Carolinas, and Georgia. These had scarcely been subdued, when war blazed out in the northwest, under the inspiration of Pontiac, the

heroes, whose names should not be forgotten. I have gathered up some facts

great chief of the Ottawas. He had formed a confederation, and in the month of June, 1763, all the posts in possession of the English west of Oswego, fell into his hands excepting Detroit, Niagara and Fort Pitt. Colonel Henry Bouquet, a brave officer, had saved the battle by his skill and valor; and at the time Penn wrote this letter, Detroit was closely besieged by Pontiac. General Jeffery Amherst was then commander-in-chief of the British forces in America, and the Earl of Halifax was Secretary of State for the British colonies.—[Ed.]

concerning Major William Ferguson of the 1st Regiment of United States Artillery, who was killed at the defeat of St. Clair, of whom nothing has been written except the fact of his death.

William Ferguson was the son of Usher and Mary Ferguson of Armagh, Ireland. When young Ferguson came to this country is not on record. The first we hear of him is, his appointment on the 5th of October, 1776, as 3d Lieutenant in a Regiment of Artillery organized by the Pennsylvania Committee of Safety. This regiment was commanded by Col. Thomas Proctor, and participated in the Battles of Trenton and Princeton, Brandywine and Germantown; and in 1779, it formed part of the force under Sullivan, in his expedition against the Six Nations. It is probable that Ferguson had his first experience in Indian warfare, while on this campaign.

He was at one time a prisoner of war, as we learn from the following interesting facts: A few years ago there was extant an old copy of a manuscript treatise on Geography and Astronomy, written by Edward Antill, who was a fellow-prisoner of Ferguson at Flatbush, L. I., in 1780. He dedicates it to "William Ferguson, Esq., Captain in Col. Proctor's regiment of Artillery in the Army of the United States," and says: "I have singled you out from a number of my unfortunate brethren in consequence of my observations on your studious turn, and laudable thirst after mathematical knowledge."

This is a high tribute to this young subaltern, and its propriety is evinced by the fact that within four years he had been promoted from the lowest grade to a Captaincy, in a corps which was the pride of the Continental Army under General Knox. Captain Ferguson was exchanged on the 1st of December, 1780.

At the close of the Revolutionary war Captain Ferguson became one of the original members of the Cincinnati Society, and a paper lately published contains a list of officers, his name among the rest, who gave one month's pay to the funds of the society.

The war being over Ferguson proposed to retire to private life; but such was the estimation in which he was held by the government, that they insisted upon his remaining in the service, especially in view of the threatening attitude of the Indian Tribes on our western border.

Accordingly in 1787, we find him in command of Fort McIntosh (now Beaver, Penn.), and a few months later he was at Fort Washington (now Cincinnati). Gen. Harmar in a despatch to Gen. Knox, from this place says, "I am particularly indebted to Captain Ferguson and Lieut. Pratt for their indefatigable industry and attention in forwarding the work thus far." That work was building Fort Washington, the nucleus of the city of Cincinnati.

During the succeeding two years, Captain Ferguson was assisting in planning, building and defending that line of Forts on our western frontier, which were so celebrated in the Indian wars of that day. In December, 1789, he left Fort Harmar, (at the mouth of the Muskingum) where he was at the time stationed, for Philadelphia, with a letter from Gen. Harmar to Gov. Mifflin, in which he is highly commended as an officer.

On the 20th of April, 1789, Captain Ferguson was married in Philadelphia, to Susanna, daughter of Maskell and Mary Ewing, who was said to have been at the time "both a beauty and a belle."

Captain Ferguson did not remain long amidst the soft pleasures of civilized life. On the 29th of September, of this year (1789), his name among others, was sent to the Senate of the United States, as Captain in the Battalion of Artillery, in the first regular army organized under the present government.

Towards the close of this year, the attitude of the Indian tribes on the frontier became so decidedly hostile, that General Harmar, a most distinguished officer of the Continental army, was placed in command of all the forces on the border, among whom was the company of Captain Ferguson. He was stationed at Fort Washington, he being next in command

to General Harmar. The general was already acquainted with the merits of Captain Ferguson, who had served under him the preceding three years. The estimate which Gen. Harmar had formed of him we learn from a letter to Governor Muhlenberg of Pennsylvania, under date of June 30, 1788. He writes: "Captain Ferguson is an officer of distinguished and superior abilities in the Artillery department * * *. I doubt whether an officer of equal abilities, of his grade and in his line, can be furnished by any State in the Union." This is very high praise from a most accomplished soldier, the same who in 1784, conveyed to France the ratification of the definitive treaty.

The Indian troubles culminated in 1790, in what is known as "Harmar's Defeat." Captain Ferguson commanded the artillery on that expedition, which left Fort Washington on the 30th of September, and after a fatiguing march, engaged the enemy at the junction of the St. Mary's and St. Joseph's rivers, the spot where Fort Wayne, Ind., now stands. Here a most sanguinary battle was fought, which has been improperly called a defeat: but the object of the expedition was accomplished, namely, the entire destruction of many Indian towns, and a large quantity of supplies. The main reason of its not being a brilliant success, was on account of the miserable condition of the militia, and their unseemly jealousy of the regular troops. Gen. Harmar afterwards appeared before a Court of Inquiry and was honorably acquitted. Captain Ferguson gave testimony before this Court from which a few extracts are given. He says: "They (the Kentucky Militia) were almost destitute of camp kettles and axes, nor could a supply of these useful articles be procured. Their arms were generally very bad and unfit for service * *. They came under my inspection in making repairs; as a specimen, one rifle was brought to be repaired without a lock, and another without a stock * * *. Among the militia were a great many hardly able to bear arms, such as old, infirm men and young boys: they were not such as might be

expected from a frontier country, smart, active woodsmen, well accustomed to arms, and alert to revenge the injuries done them and their connexions; now, there were a great many of them substitutes who had never fired a gun. Major Paul, of Pennsylvania, told me that many of his men were so awkward that they could not take their gun-locks off to oil them, and put them on again, nor could they put in their flints so as to be useful."

That the army was in no worse a condition, is in some measure due to Captain Ferguson, for Gen. St. Clair in speaking of this army as it gathered at Fort Washington preparatory to the campaign says, "It is in a better state than anticipated, owing to the prudent care and attention of Gen. Harmar and the indefatigable application of Captain Ferguson."

On the 4th of March, 1791, General Washington sent to the Senate the name of Captain Ferguson, as Major of Artillery, and he was immediately employed under Gen. St. Clair, in organizing an army for establishing a military post at the point where Harmar was defeated, connecting it by a line of intermediate posts with Fort Washington. This army after a toilsome march through the wilderness, arrived on the 3d of November, 1791, at the Wabash river. That night Gen. St. Clair and Major Ferguson were engaged in concerting a plan of defence, which they proposed to put into execution the next day; but they were disappointed, for shortly after day-break they were attacked by an overwhelming force of Indians, and the militia becoming panic struck broke and retreated upon the main body, leaving the brunt of the battle to the regulars, who, after the most remarkable deeds of valour, and after the death and wounding of most of the officers, were forced to retreat. Major Ferguson was among the killed. During the engagement the field-pieces which he brought into action were captured and recaptured three times, and were not abandoned until every artillery officer but one was killed, and that one desperately wounded, and every horse belonging to the regiment killed. Gen.

St. Clair in his official letter says, "The loss the public has sustained by the fate of so many officers, particularly of Gen. Butler and Major Ferguson cannot be too much regretted, but it is a circumstance that will alleviate the misfortune in some measure, that all of these fell most gallantly doing their duty.

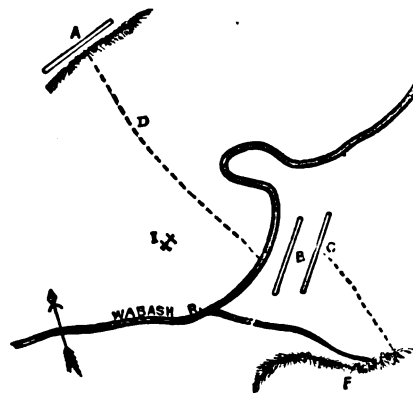
An artilleryman in Major Ferguson's command after the battle wrote some doggerel verses which became popular in the army, in which he introduces the names of most of the officers who were killed. The verse in which Major Ferguson's name appears reads thus:

"We charged again with courage firm, but soon again gave ground;
The war-whoop then redoubled, as did the foes around.
They killed Major Ferguson, which caused his men to cry
Our only safety is in flight; or fighting here to die."

It is not necessary to enlarge on this battle as you have so lately published a full account. A little sketch will give an idea of the point where Major Ferguson was stationed, killed and buried. In the diagram A., is High ground on which the militia were encamped at first, B. C. Encampment of main Army. D. Line of retreat of Militia. E. Line of retreat main army. F. Place where Gen. Butler, Major Ferguson and other officers were buried. I. Artillery during battle.

A few weeks after the battle a search was made for the lost cannon, but without success. In 1830, a brass field-piece was

found buried at the spot marked I., on the map, and was no doubt one of Major Ferguson's battery. It was from this spot



marked I. that the Indians were three times driven to the high ground in the rear, at the point of the bayonet; and it is without doubt the spot where Major Ferguson met his death gallantly serving his guns.

A few years after the battle the pocket-bible and watch of Major Ferguson were found in possession of a British officer at Detroit, who had received them from an Indian. When applied to by the family for these precious mementos, the officer returned the Bible, but said that he had use for the watch.

Major Ferguson left one child, a daughter, and she one child a daughter, now the wife of Henry M. Alexander, Esq., of New York City.

MEN AND EVENTS OF THE REVOLUTION.

Memoranda of Judge Richard Peters¹ relating to events that occurred during the Revolutionary war.

The RECORD is indebted to a relative of the late Judge Richard Peters for the following interesting and important extracts from the Judge's manuscripts. They throw much light upon obscure points in the history of that period.

I reproach myself who had the best of opportunities, with culpable negligence in

not keeping a diary of the transactions in which I had more or less personal agency,

¹ Richard Peters was born at Belmont, near Philadelphia, in June, 1744, in the same house in which he died, in August, 1828, at the age of 84 years. He was educated in Philadelphia, was a good Latin and French scholar, and spoke the