

trigues continuing, Col. Dayton was sent with a force to arrest him. Receiving intelligence of the movement, he hastily collected his dependents and tenants, left his family plate, money and other valuables to be buried by a faithful slave, and took his departure through the forest to Canada. There he raised a regiment of Tories, called "Johnson's Greens," with which he made several raids upon the inhabitants as already described in the history of Montgomery County. By an act of the Legislature of New York, the large estates of Sir John and other Tories were confiscated. Inspired with feelings of revenge, he waged a most inhuman and barbarous warfare upon his old friends and neighbors. About midnight on the 21st of May, 1780, Sir John, with a force of five hundred Tories and Indians, with which he had penetrated the wilderness from Crown Point to the Sacandaga, appeared at Johnstown. He divided his force into two parties, one of which was to strike the Mohawk at Tribes Hill, thence proceed up the river, destroying all in their course, and form a junction with the other division at the mouth of the Cayadutta Creek. With the latter division Sir John proceeded through the village of Johnstown, unperceived by the sentinels of the small picketed fort there, and before daylight appeared before the Hall, once his own, where he secured two prisoners. On his way to join the other division at the mouth of the Cayadutta, he passed the residence of Sampson Sammons, who with his family, were among the most active patriots of the County. Sir John had always respected Mr. Sammons, but determined on this occasion to carry him and his family away prisoners, and thus lessen the number of his more influential enemies in the Mohawk Valley. It was scarcely light when a Tory named Sunderland, with a resolute band, surrounded the house of Mr. Sammons and arrested Thomas, the youngest son, as he stepped to the door to observe the weather. This was the first intimation of danger. The father and two other sons were immediately made prisoners without any opportunity for defense, but the females were left undisturbed, after plundering the house of all valuables. The marauders then proceeded to the mouth of the creek and up the river, plundering and burning as they went. Within a few miles, nine aged men, four of whom were upwards of eighty years of age, were murdered and scalped. In the afternoon Sir John returned to the Hall, where he secured the plate and other valuables, which filled two barrels. It was then distributed among forty soldiers, who placed it in their knapsacks, the Quarter-Master making a memorandum of the name of each with the articles intrusted to him, and in this way it was carried to Montreal. Towards night the militia began to collect, and Sir John having obtained posses-

sion of about twenty slaves, among whom was the one who buried the treasure, he took his departure for Canada. So completely panic-stricken were the inhabitants that he was allowed to escape unmolested in his retreat, and reached St. John's in safety. While halting the next day after leaving Johnstown, old Mr. Sammons requested an interview with Sir John, which was granted. He asked to be released, but the Baronet hesitated. The old man then recurred to former times when he and Sir John were friends and neighbors. "See what you have done, Sir John," he said, "You have taken myself and my sons prisoners, burned my dwelling to ashes, and left the helpless members of my family with no covering but the heavens above, and no prospect but desolation around them. Did we treat you in this manner when you were in the power of the Tryon County Committee? Do you remember when you were consulted by General Schuyler, and you agreed to surrender your arms? Do you not remember that you then agreed to remain neutral, and that upon that condition General Schuyler left you at liberty on your parole? Those conditions you violated. You went off to Canada; enrolled yourself in the service of the King; raised a regiment of the disaffected who abandoned the country with you; and you have now returned to wage a cruel war against us, by burning our dwellings and robbing us of our property. I was your friend in the Committee of Safety, and exerted myself to save your person from injury. And how am I requited? Your Indians have murdered and scalped old Mr. Fonda, at the age of eighty years, a man who, I have heard your father say, was like a father to him when he settled in Johnstown and Kingsborough. You cannot succeed, Sir John, in such a warfare, and you will never enjoy your property more." The appeal had its effect. The old gentleman was released and a span of his horses restored to him. A Tory named Doxtader was seen upon one of the old man's horses and refused to give it up, saying it belonged to an Indian. After the war he returned to the neighborhood, when Mr. Sammons had him arrested, and he was obliged to pay the full value of the animal.

In the fall of the same year Sir John made another raid upon Tryon County, plundering and burning in the usual manner. In October 1781, Major Ross and Walter Butler invaded the County and encamped a short distance north of Johnson Hall. Here he was attacked by a small force under Col. Willett, which gave way on the first fire and retreated to the stone church at the village, where they were again rallied, and by the aid of reinforcements that had come up, Butler's force was defeated and forced to retreat. He was followed by Willett along the north bank of the Mohawk for some distance, thence northerly along

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