

of the militia of Washington County. The settlers west of the Monongahela were almost in a state of panic. Col. Marshal, of Washington County, wrote Gen. Irvine on the 4th of July, informing him that the people of that section were determined to abandon their settlements if a force was not sent to protect them. A great number of the inhabitants moved from their homes to the shelter of the forts and block-houses. Nearly as much consternation prevailed in the settlements east of the Monongahela, and the general alarm was greatly increased by the sudden appearance of the enemy in Westmoreland County, where, on the 11th of July, they killed and scalped three sons of Mr. Chambers, and two days later, attacked and burned the old county seat of Westmoreland, Hannastown. This event was narrated in a letter¹ written by Ephraim Douglass to Gen. James Irvine, dated July 26, 1782, as follows:

"My last contained some account of the destruction of Hanna's Town, but it was an imperfect one; the damage was greater than we then knew, and attended with circumstances different from my representation of them. There were nine killed and twelve carried off prisoners, and instead of some of the houses *without* the fort being defended by our people, they all retired within the miserable stockade, and the enemy possessed themselves of the forsaken houses, from whence they kept up a continual fire upon the fort from about twelve o'clock till night without doing any other damage than wounding one little girl within the walls. They carried away a great number of horses and everything of value in the deserted houses, destroyed all the cattle, hogs, and poultry within their reach, and burned all the houses in the village except two; these they also set fire to, but fortunately it did not extend itself so far as to consume them; several houses round the country were destroyed in the same manner, and a number of unhappy families either murdered or carried off captives; some have since suffered a similar fate in different parts; hardly a day but they have been discovered in some quarter of the country, and the poor inhabitants struck with terror through the whole extent of our frontier. Where this party set out from is not certainly known; several circumstances induce the belief of their coming from the head of the Allegheny, or towards Niagara, rather than from Sandusky or the neighborhood of Lake Erie. The great number of whites, known by their language to have been in the party, the direction of their retreat when they left the country, which was towards the Kittanning, and no appearance of their tracks either coming or going having been discovered by the officer and party which the general² ordered on that service beyond the river, all conspire to support this belief, and I think it is

sincerely to be wished, on account of the unfortunate captives who have fallen into their hands, that it may be true, for the enraged Delawares renounce the idea of taking any prisoners but for cruel purposes of torture."

Intelligence of the attack on and destruction of Hannastown did not reach Gen. Irvine, at Fort Pitt, until three days after the occurrence, and of course it was then too late for the commandant to send a force in pursuit of the savages with any hope of success. The Indians who made the foray were from the north, mostly Mingoes. The surviving prisoners captured at Hannastown and Miller's were taken to Niagara and delivered to the British military authorities there. At the close of the war they were delivered up and returned to their homes.

Before the events above narrated, Gen. Irvine wrote (July 11th) to Gen. Washington, saying that the people were constantly growing more determined in their efforts to raise a new force to operate against the Sandusky towns, that solicitations to him to assist in it and to assume the command were increasing daily, and that the militia officers had actually commenced preparations for the expedition. The news of the descent of the savages on Hannastown caused these preparations to be urged with greater energy by the bolder and more determined men, while it increased the general alarm and apprehension in a great degree. Gen. Irvine, in a letter written to President Moore, of the Executive Council, on the 16th of July, said, in reference to the probable results of this affair, "I fear this stroke will intimidate the inhabitants so much that it will not be possible to rally them or persuade them to make a stand. Nothing in my power shall be left undone to countenance and encourage them."

Notwithstanding Gen. Irvine's fears to the contrary, the raising of the new expedition was strenuously urged, and pushed forward with all possible vigor by the principal officers of the militia in this region. The commanding officers of companies at that time in what is now Fayette County were:

Capt. John Beeson.	Capt. Moses Sutton.
" Theophilus Phillips.	" Michael Catts.
" Ichabod Ashcraft.	" John Hardin.
" James Dougherty.	" John Powers.
" Armstrong Porter.	" Daniel Canon.
" Cornelius Lynch.	" Robert Beall.
" William Hayney.	" — McFarlin.
" — Nichols.	" — Ryan.

Capt. Thos. Moore.

Every person liable to do military duty was required to report to the commanding officer of the company in which he was enrolled. Other than clearly established physical disability, or having served in the then recent campaign under Col. Crawford, very few pleas for exemption from service were deemed valid. Men were required to perform regular tours of duty at the several "stations" in anticipation of Indian at-

tack, but were excused from this duty if disposed to volunteer for the new expedition.¹

¹ Many of these facts are obtained from the old manuscript book which is still in existence in the court-house at Uniontown, and contains the minutes of the several military "Courts of Appeal" held in the spring and summer of 1782, as before mentioned. Some extracts from these minutes are here given, viz.:

"*A Court of Appeal held at Beeson's Town the 5th day of August, 1782.*"

"Present
Alexander McClean } Members { Lieut. Robert Ritchey, Esq.
Sub. Lieut. for West County } Ensign William McCoy.

"*Captain Ichabod Ashcraft's Detach.*

"John Griffith.—Excused on Oath of Inability of Body.
"Alexander Buchanan.—Adam McChaffery appears a Substitute for the Station, but chooses rather to go on the Expedition. He is therefore excused for that purpose.

"Joshua Robinson.—Substitute, Daniel Barton, for the Station.
"Thomas Bowel.—Excused on the Credit of his brother, Bazil Bowel, who is Enrolled under Capt. Ashcraft for the Expedition.

"*Capt. Daniel Cannon's Return—Tth Class.*

"Matthey Willey.—Clerk to the Company, to torn out on duty with the Capt.

"James Robeson.—His son a Volunteer for the Expedition.—Enrolled.
"Barritt Clifton.—Resolv'd & agreed to order the 30th July as Robt Rogers.

"James Burns.—A Volunteer for the Expedition.
"James Finley, Junior.—Excused on acct of a Tour on the Relief of Tuscarawas, provid, by Mr. John Kidd.
"Abraham McDonald.—Fined.

"Michael Daley.—Excused on Oath of present inability of Body.
"Philip Records.—Excused on acct of Services perform'd on Mackinob's Campaign by Alexander McClean.

"*Captain Sutton's Detach—5th Class.*

"James Donaldson.—Excused on account of Services performed on Mackinob's Campaign, not before credited for.

"Quallah Stillwell.—Lovi Bridgewater excuses him by a tour on the Sandusky.

"John Hawthorn.—David Brooks, a Substitute, appears for the Station.
"Webb Hayden.—Appears for Station; excused by William Jelliff, on Expedition.

"John Scott.—Bt by a Sunk, & not able to perform the next Tour.

"*Capt. Beeson's Return—6th Class.*

"Thomas Brownfield.—To be determined by the Court of Common Pleas.

"Samuel Rich.—John Beeson answers a Tour of Duty by the Relief of Tuscarawas.

"Christian Countryman.—Excused on Condition He perform the next Tour of Duty yet to be Ordered.

"Den. Carter.—John Orr, of Capt. Sutton's Company, answers a Tour on Sandusky Exp.

"John Britt.—Produced a Certificate of his having produced a Substitute during the War.

"Samuel Boyd.—Excused on account of Two Tours of duty allowed by Capt. Anderson for bringing in prisoners from Carolina taken by Col. Morgan.

"John McClean, Junr.—Performed on the Line [meaning a tour of duty as one of the guards to the surveyors running the line between Pennsylvania and Virginia].

"*A Court of Appeal held at Union Town the 13th day of August, 1782.*"

"Alexander McClean, Sub. Lt. Esq. } Present.
Daniel Culp.

"*Returns of Capt. Beall.*

"James Stephenson.—At the Station.
"John Love.—An apprentice to Mr. Craftcoort, & was at his father's when Hannastown was destroyed, and continued there to assist his father.

"Moses White.—At the Station.

"Thomas Stacey.—Enrolled for the Expedition.

The destruction of Hannastown was quickly followed by other Indian forays at various points along the border, and as the continual alarms caused by these attacks rendered it necessary to keep large numbers of the militiamen constantly on duty at the stations, it soon became apparent that the requisite number of volunteers could not be raised and equipped for the new expedition by the time originally designated, which was the 1st of August.² "The incursions of the Indians on the frontier of this country," said Gen. Irvine, in a letter written on the 25th of July to the Secretary of War, "will unavoidably prevent the militia from assembling as soon as the 1st of August. Indeed, I begin to entertain doubts of their being able to raise and equip the proposed number this season." Under these circumstances the general thought it proper to extend the time of preparation for the expedition, and accordingly he directed that the forces should assemble on September 20th (instead of August 1st), at Fort McIntosh, as a general rendezvous, and march thence to the invasion of the Indian country.³

In the mean time the Indians continued to grow bolder and more aggressive in their attacks along the border. On the night of the 11th of September an Indian force of two hundred and sixty warriors, under the renegade George Girty (brother of the infamous Simon), accompanied by a detachment of about forty British Rangers from Detroit, under Capt. Pratt, of the royal service, attacked the fort at Wheeling,⁴ but were repulsed. Other attempts were made by them during the day and night of the 12th, but with no better success. In the morning of the 13th the besiegers withdrew from Wheeling, but proceeded to attack Rice's fort, some fourteen miles distant. There also they were repulsed, their loss being four warriors killed. These and other attacks at various points on the frontier materially dampened the ardor of the people

The book contains a great number of entries similar to those given above. It closes with minutes of business done "At a Court of Appeal held at Billies Fort, the third day of September, 1782.

"Present.—Alexander McClean, Sub Lieut. Pres^d
Andrew Babl, Esq. } Members.
John P. Duval.

² The volunteers for this expedition in that part of Westmoreland County which is now Fayette were ordered to rendezvous at Beeson's town (Uniontown) on the 9th of July, to proceed thence to the general rendezvous at the mouth of Beaver.

³ Both the State and general government had approved the plan of the expedition, and Gen. Irvine had been appointed to the command of it.

⁴ John Slover, the guide in Crawford's expedition, who made his escape from the Indians after having been tied to the stake for torture, as before narrated, had given warning that the savages were meditating an extended series of operations against the frontier settlements, and that among these projected operations was an attack in force on the post at Wheeling. This information he said he gained by being present at their councils for several days while in captivity, and fully understanding every word that was uttered by the chiefs on those occasions, as he was entirely familiar with the Delaware, Wyandot, and Shawanese languages. The tale which he brought of these intended expeditions by the Indians against the white settlements was not believed by Cook, Marshal, Gaddis, and Gen. Irvine, but the result proved that Slover had neither misunderstood nor misstated the intentions of the savages as expressed by their chiefs in council.

¹ Now in existence, with the "Irvine Papers," in possession of the Pennsylvania Historical Society.

² Gen. Irvine.