

“CUSHETUNK”

The First White Settlement
in the Upper Delaware River Valley

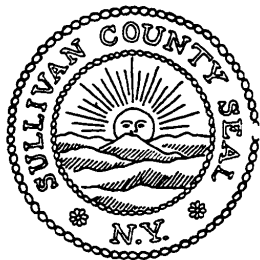
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by

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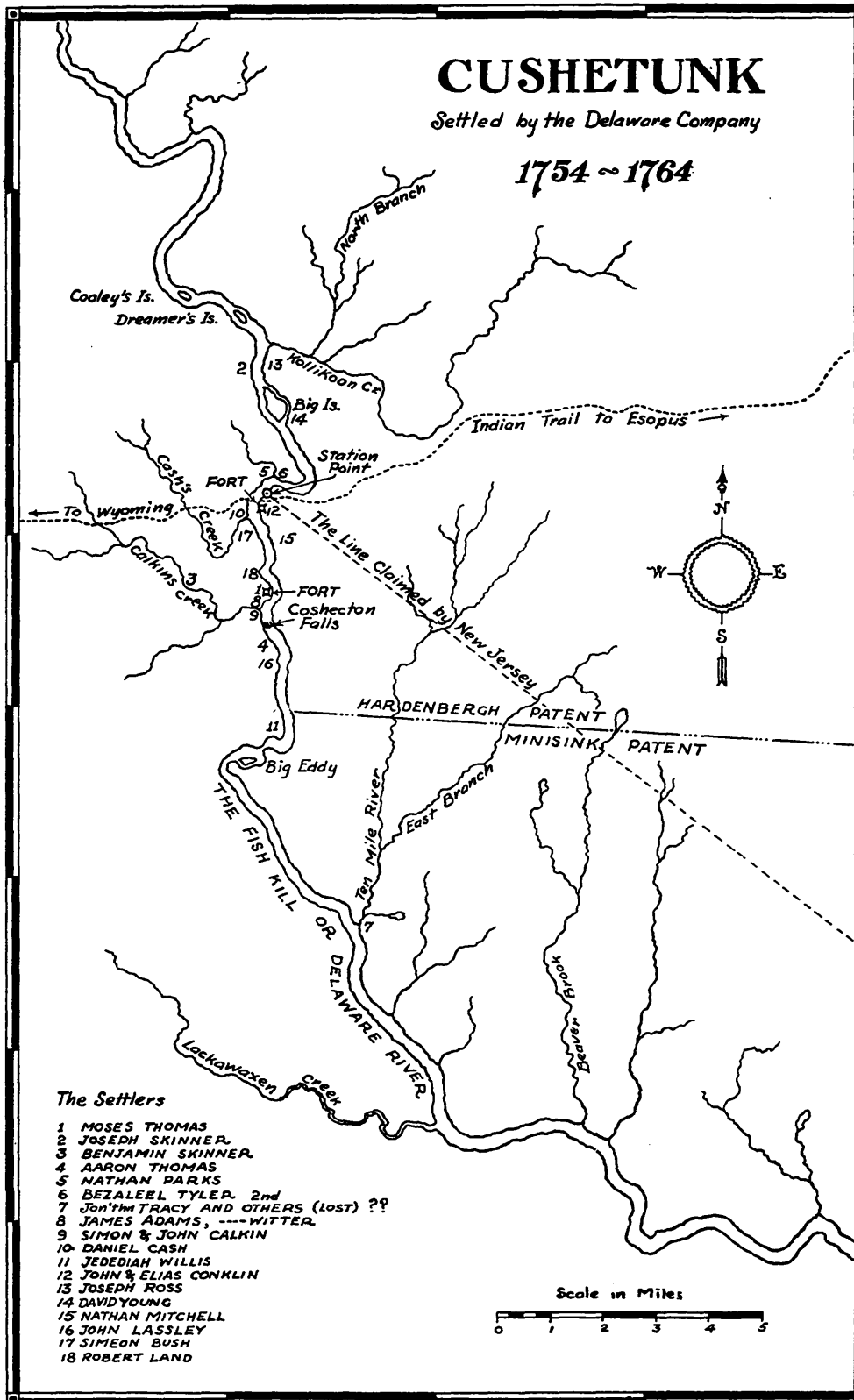


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CUSHETUNK

Settled by the Delaware Company

1754 ~ 1764



The Settlers

- 1 MOSES THOMAS
- 2 JOSEPH SKINNER
- 3 BENJAMIN SKINNER
- 4 AARON THOMAS
- 5 NATHAN PARKS
- 6 BEZALEEL TYLER 2nd
- 7 JONATHAN TRACY AND OTHERS (LOST) ??
- 8 JAMES ADAMS, ---WITTER
- 9 SIMON & JOHN CALKIN
- 10 DANIEL CASH
- 11 JEDEDIAH WILLIS
- 12 JOHN & ELIAS CONKLIN
- 13 JOSEPH ROSS
- 14 DAVID YOUNG
- 15 NATHAN MITCHELL
- 16 JOHN LASSLEY
- 17 SIMEON BUSH
- 18 ROBERT LAND

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— INTRODUCTION —

12 Apr '13

Wm. S. Sullivan
Wagon-Me...

A deed recently recorded in the office of the County Clerk of Sullivan County reads, in part, "All that certain tract or parcel of land being a part of division No. 63 of Great Lot 18 of the Hardenbergh Patent situated in the Village of Cochection, Town of Cochection, County of Sullivan and State of New York, bounded and described as follows." Such language, although understood perfectly by lawyers and real estate brokers is very confusing to the layman. In fact a large percentage of our residents would have to consult a map to determine the exact location of Cochection, to say nothing of the Hardenbergh Patent with its numerous lots and subdivisions. Such a circumstance is hardly understandable when one considers the fact that Cochection was settled by white men more than twenty years before the Revolutionary War, even before the French and Indian War, and played an important role in the settlement of the vast region now known as Sullivan County.

Today, Cochection is a comparatively obscure hamlet on the Delaware River which forms the western boundary of Sullivan County. Being the heart of the territory settled by ambitious Yankees from Connecticut under provisions of the Delaware Company Charter, it is largely responsible for the early establishment and development of the County. In that respect it may be considered second only to the great Mamakating Valley, surrounding Wurtsboro, which was settled at a much earlier date. For that matter some historians grant Cochection the primary position, rather than second, for the following reasons:

Yankees from Connecticut

Whereas the Mamakating region was settled for the most part by Dutchmen and Huguenots seeking re-

ligious and political freedom, the Cushtetunk (Cochection) region was settled by energetic Yankees from Connecticut who had already earned and established their religious freedom but were then organized for the purpose of expanding their mother Colony. When white men first explored the regions of the Hudson, Delaware and Susquehanna Rivers, they found well beaten Indian trails connecting these rivers. One such trail led from Cushtetunk westward through Little Meadows, in Salem Township, Pa., and across the Moosic Mountains to the Wyoming Valley on the Susquehanna River. In the opposite direction a trail led from Cushtetunk to the Blue Mountain (Liberty), Chestnut Woods (Grahamsville), down the Rondout Creek and thence to the Hudson River where Kingston now stands. Most of the great horde of the Yankees who migrated westward to take up lands in the Wyoming Valley under provisions of the Susquehanna Company, and in the Cushtetunk Region under the Delaware Company, used these trails. Both trails were later developed as wagon roads. It is natural to suppose, and is, in fact, a matter of record, that many of those expansion-minded pioneers from Connecticut discovered locations between the Hudson and Delaware which suited their purposes for a homestead. At a later date Cochection became the western terminus of the Newburgh and Cochection Turnpike and the eastern terminus of the Cochection and Great Bend Turnpike through Pennsylvania. Therefore, being in the center of the main east-west avenue of transportation, Cochection took on great prominence as a base of operations for home seekers on the frontier and as such contributed greatly toward the growth and development of Sullivan County.

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More Incentive Here

The Dutch who settled in the Mamakating Valley made many improvements and developed great farms, but did little in the way of expansion because they did not have the incentive to do so. As a general rule, they did not own their lands but held them under the feudal system of paying quit-rents to the proprietors. On the other hand, the Yankees brought with them the land holding systems of Connecticut in which they were freeholders. Some of those who dropped off enroute to their grants in Pennsylvania contracted for lands in New York under the quit-rent system, but as a general rule those Yankees would not take up lands unless they could buy them and establish outright ownership. Thus it can be readily seen that the men and women who came from Connecticut could do a better job in clearing a wilderness and holding their lands on the frontier because they did actually have something to hold and to fight for.

Cochecton is historic from its association with the three Provinces of New York, New Jersey and Connecti-

cut and because of its location at the northwest boundary mark of old New Jersey. It was the scene of much Indian warfare, furnished many patriots in the war for American independence and figured prominently in the boundary dispute between New York and New Jersey.

Because of its historic significance to Sullivan County, as herein outlined, it is deemed mandatory that the story of the Cushetunk Settlement shall be recorded in a form easily understandable to all and useful as a text in the study of local history.

This work must not be construed as being a history of the Town of Cochecton. It is not and was never intended to be such a history. The story of the Town of Cochecton is another matter which may be treated separately at some future date. In this story has been put all the information available, at this time, covering the Delaware Company and its activities between the years 1754 and 1764.

JAMES W. BURBANK,
County Historian.

CHAPTER I — THE DELAWARE PURCHASES

Cushetunk is a name which was formerly applied to a region in the valley of the Delaware River extending from the neighborhood of the Callicoon Creek to the mouth of the Ten Mile River. Some historians extend the region southwardly to the mouth of the Lackawaxen Creek. For that matter, the entire vast area of land purchased from the Lenape Indians by the Delaware Company was known as the Cushetunk Settlement. However, as the greater part of that purchase was located in the interior of Pennsylvania, and because this story concerns only the history of Cushetunk as it affects the history of Sullivan County, only the smaller region between the Callicoon Creek and the Ten Mile River will be accounted for.

The heart or principal village of the region is now known as Cochecton and was spelled that way when the Newburgh and Cochecton Turnpike was chartered in 1801. Prior to that time, it was spelled in many different ways, depending upon the abilities of various early colonists to translate the Lenape Indian pronunciation*. Some of the early spellings are as follows:

*1737—Kishigton—in New York Colonial records.

*1738—Cashietunk—by Cadwallader Colden, Gov. N. Y.

*1749—Cushyxtunk — on Lewis Evans Map.

*1758—Casheitong—in proceedings of Treaty of Easton.

*1763—Cushetunk—by settlers of the Delaware Co.

*1772—Coshethton — affidavit by Nicholas Conklin and others.

According to F. M. Ruttenber (Footprints of the Red Men, New York State Historical Association, 1906), "There is no such word as CASH or CUSH in the Delaware dialect, however; it stands here obviously as a form of K'sch, intensive—K'schiecton (Len. Eng. Dic.); Geschiechton, Zeisberger, verbal noun. "To wash," "The act of washing," as by the "overflow of the water of a sea or river. "The river washed a valley in the plain"; with suffix—unk (K'schiechton-unk — compressed to Cushetunk), denoting a place where the action of the verb was performed, i.e., a place where at times the land is washed or overflowed by

water. Therefore, as was once written by the late Hon. James C. Curtis of Cochecton, the place "was called, by the Indians, Cushetunk, or low lands."

Red Stone Hills

Another, and more recent, interpretation of the word has been given us by Charles A. Philhower, of Westfield, N. J., an eminent authority on Lenape Indian lore and languages. He breaks it down in the following manner:

KACH or KASH—meaning red, or red stone.

TE or TET—stone or stone hill.

UNG, UNK or TUNK—location, the place of.

The word was probably KACH-TE-TUNK or KASH-ET-UNK, the place of copper red stone, or strata, or stone hills. That would make Cushetunk, if properly pronounced, a Lenape word descriptive of the locality, "A place of red stone hills."

At this late date, we cannot be positive in a belief that either of the above interpretations would be acceptable to the red men who originally inhabited the region, but both are certainly descriptive of the place and COCHECTON, in any of the various spellings, was handed down to us by the Indians who lived there.

The Indians who were living in the Delaware Valley near Cushetunk when the Yankees came to buy the lands, were of the Lenape, or parent, branch of Algonkian stock and of the Minsi, or Munsee, tribal subdivision thereof. The Lenape were divided into three totemic groups, namely: Unalachtigo, or Turkey; Unami, or Turtle; and the Minsi, or Wolf. It was the latter tribe which originally inhabited nearly all of the territory now known as Sullivan County, but by 1755, when the Yankees appeared on the Delaware, some Turkeys and Turtles had been moved from New Jersey by the encroachments of the white man, and were then mingled with the Wolves.

Treaty of Easton, 1758

In the Treaty of Easton, 1758, the Indian title to land conveyed to New Jersey is described, in part: "Beginning at the Station Point between the Province of New Jersey and New York, at the most northerly end of an Indian settlement on the Delaware, known by the name of CASHEI-

TONG." Colden (in N. Y. Doc. Col. Hist., VI, 124) states "CASHIEH-TUNK, a village, probably belonging to the Munsee, situated in 1738 on Delaware R., near the junction of the N. New Jersey state line.—" Again, according to Ruttenber, "The Indian town spoken of was established in 1744, although its site was previously occupied by Indian hunting houses or huts for residences while on hunting expeditions. In Col. Mss. V 75, p. 10, is preserved a paper in which it is stated that the Indians residing at Goshen, Orange County, having "removed to their hunting houses at Cashigton", were there visited, in December 1744, by a delegation of residents of Goshen, consisting of Col. Thomas DeKay, William Coleman, Benj. Thompson, Major Swartwout, Adam Wisner, interpreter, and two Indians as pilots, for the purpose of ascertaining the cause of the removal; that the delegation found the residents composed of two totemic families, Wolves and Turkeys; that, having lost their Sachem, they were debating "out of which tribe a successor should be chosen"; that they had removed from Goshen through fear of the hostile intentions on the part of the settlers there, who "were always carrying guns."

The foregoing is written to show why it was that the members of the Delaware Company purchased their lands, and received a deed, from "Chiefs of the Tribe and Nation of the Indians called Ninnepauues (Lenapes) otherwise and in English known by the name of the Delaware Indians Planted and Inhabiting in the Western Continent of North America." This deed naming some two hundred fifty or more residents of Connecticut, as grantees, was signed by Mechockenous, Kalestias, Mackeus and Wessollong, in the presence of Thomas Nottingham, interpreter, and Eleazer Midate at "Coshaiton SS, Ulster County in the Province of New York in North America, Nov'r 11th Anno Domini 1755."

All of the present Sullivan County not claimed by New Jersey was then a part of Ulster County. Sullivan County was taken from Ulster on March 27, 1809.

Made Three Purchases

The proprietors of the Delaware Company had fortified their claims to land in New Jersey (or New York)

and in Pennsylvania by three separate purchases from the Delaware Indians. The first was executed on December 20, 1754, and signed by Noleatock, Mactkka, Wessawell and Cark. The second was executed May 6, 1775 at the Indian's headquarters on the Delaware River and signed by Allaa-maseitt, Noletoo, Makeus, Kaukin, Kalestias, Metauktoo, Wisscollong, Wisshelleewou, Mungerchass, Mottellende, Porahakk and Loaeueka. The third was the one signed November 11, 1755, at Cashaiton, and the first described above.

At the time of the signing of the above conveyances, the Delaware Indians were considered subjects of the Six Nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. They had been defeated, in bloody combat, by the Iroquois and reduced to the status of women by the victors and, as women, had no right to sell or otherwise convey lands to the white men. The Delawares did not concur in this belief although the custom was recognized by the white colonists in New York and Pennsylvania.

Delay in Settling

Consequently, and in line with an accepted practice, the head men or leading proprietors of the Susquehanna Company who had set the pace in westward expansion, made their purchases of lands on the Susquehanna River from Sachems of the Six Nations, assembled in Albany, during the summer of 1754. The deed was dated July 11th of that year and listed about eight hundred fifty persons as grantees. Despite this rather pretentious beginning, it seems that no settlers were sent to the Wyoming Valley until 1762. The French and Indian War may have accounted for the delay.

During the same summer, 1754, the valley of the Delaware near Cushtunk was being explored by two men from Preston, Connecticut, namely Joseph Skinner and Moses Thomas, both of whom were prospective proprietors in the Delaware Company then being organized. According to the best traditions of Cushtunk, Moses Thomas had been visiting the region as an Indian trader since 1750. His descendants, who held the Thomas farm for more than one hundred years, and were second in respectability to no others in the valley, provided the information which is the

basis of this supposition. Another, but less firmly founded, tradition would account for a third Preston, Connecticut, resident named Isaac Tracy, who was scouting or taking account of the valley at the same time. Whether or not they came together, and were working in unison, cannot be determined, but they all came from the Town of Preston and later were all named in the Indian deeds.

Delawares Signed Deeds

The accounts which the above gentlemen brought back to Connecticut were evidently responsible for a departure from the accepted practice of dealing with the Six Nations because we find that when, in December of that same year, the Delaware Company made its first purchase, the deed was signed by Delaware Indians and not by representatives of the powerful "Confederacy."

As mentioned before, the Yankees possessed very clear cut views with regard to land purchases and land ownership. They were also fairly firm in the belief that "possession is nine-tenths of the law" and for that reason probably preferred to transact business with those whom they knew to be the actual possessors of the soil. Through personal association with the Red Men on the Delaware, they were evidently convinced that the Lenape were the rightful owners of the tract for which they were negotiating. Presuming that to be so, their rather unusual tactics seem justified. Certainly they had a desire to move into the new country with a secure footing, based on friendly relations with the natives. Although many of the Delaware Company had bought shares as speculators, the greater number planning to occupy the territory as soon as Connecticut would sanction the move. They intended to transplant their Connecticut form of Township to the shores of the Delaware, complete with Town Officers, schools, churches and preachers of the Gospel. They would bring their wives and children to the new country and, therefore, took no risk of aggravating the Red Men who would surround their land grants, located some forty miles beyond the white man's frontier. Though beset with many hardships making it physically impossible to accomplish all of their worthy objectives, they did, nevertheless, make an impression on the soil of Cushe-

tunk which was typical of Colonial Connecticut and which can never be eradicated. Many persons still living in the vicinity of Cochection can trace their ancestry to names which appear, as grantees, on the three Indian deeds. Some of those names are Skinner, Tyler, Parks and Thomas. The familiar names Tracy, Kimball, Witter and Adams also appear on those deeds. Others who settled later, and were not listed in the deeds, are Calkins, Conklin, Ross, Young, Bush and Mitchell, all of which names still exist in the region.

Developments Came Rapidly

It would seem that whatever causes deterred the large Susquehanna Company in reaching its goal were not sufficiently obstructive to detain the smaller Delaware Company. For the latter body of men, one development followed another in rapid succession. While investigating the lay of the land in 1754, Skinner selected a site for his home. Moses Thomas had already found a suitable site. Near the end of that same year negotiations were opened formally with the Delaware Indians, and on November 11, 1755 the last of the three deeds was signed, thus closing a deal presumably satisfactory to all concerned. Just what date the first migration of settlers took place is not known, but records kept by the Skinner family indicate that several men, together with their wives, children and household effects, were on the land by 1757. Three years later, 1760, the proprietors were inviting settlers to the Cushetunk Settlement and announced in their prospectus that they had erected three Towns, each extending ten miles along the Delaware River and eight miles westward thereof. They had built thirty cabins, three log houses, a grist-mill and a saw-mill. Twenty men were reported as being in the settlement and many more families were expected in the spring.

According to a report of one James Hindsaw, dated April 29, 1761, he learned that there were a number of houses but saw only four. In Moses Thomas' house he "observed that there were a great many families, the beds lying as thick on the floors as they commonly do in a hospital." A block house of good size was in the process of construction. One of the settlers was Simon Corkin, a Justice of the Peace and Lieutenant in Con-

necticut—a busy fellow and a ring-leader.

16 Families in 1762

After another year (1762) according to a report of one John Williamson (Pa. Archives IV 83, 84) "There were sixteen families settled on the river, their farms spreading over seven miles. Forty men were in the settlement, living in log houses, and claiming their lands under title from Connecticut." Of this report more will be told later.

Before going any further with the details of the Cushetunk Settlement and in order to "keep first things first," some explanation must be given to show why the people of Connecticut should lay claim to wild lands, in the thick of Indian country and more than one hundred miles distant, westerly, from their homesteads in New England. First, all the lands in the Colony of Connecticut, as then recognized, had been appropriated, under law, by responsible proprietors and townships erected thereon. Connecticut was becoming crowded. It was not crowded in the sense that we would apply that term today, because it was almost entirely agricultural in character. Intensive farming with primitive implements and without any knowledge of scientific farm practices had reduced the return of the soil. When a plot of ground failed to yield, the farmer would till another plot instead of rotating crops or fertilizing the old plot. By use of this method the colonists, all of whom had large families, required large farms. Secondly, then, as the lands in Connecticut were all in use, new lands must

be found. Thirdly, a number of men believed that a clause in the charter of Connecticut entitled that Colony to claim lands far to the west of the boundary previously settled by agreement in 1682, and this contention was based on the following circumstances:

Grants Were Duplicated

To quote the late Alsup Vail Tyler of Damascus, Pa. (Damascus Manor, Delaware Valley News, Narrowsburg, N. Y., 1936) "In the year 1662 Charles II of England granted a charter to the Colony of Connecticut. With the usual Kingly indifference or ignorance as to American geography, and his usual liberality with what he did not own, this grant covered all the lands west of it, to the extent of its breadth, from sea to sea. This would cover practically from the 41st to the 42nd degree of north latitude. The charter made an exception of lands 'then actually possessed by any other Christian Prince or State'—" "In 1691 this wise and liberal monarch, George II, granted a large tract to William Penn. This territory was bounded easterly by the Delaware and on the north by the 42nd degree of north latitude. The fact that this grant overlapped by one degree the east end of the earlier grant to Connecticut made no difference to his Majesty; quite likely was unknown."

Armed with this discrepancy in the charters and with what they considered valid deeds, the members of the Delaware Company prevailed upon the Government of Connecticut to claim the lands to westward and to sanction settlement upon those lands under Connecticut titles.

CHAPTER II — MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN

(1) Moses Thomas erected a good log house and established his home on the west or Pennsylvania side of the Delaware at some point on the flats above the mouth of Calkins Creek. It is the place more recently known as the farm of J. K. Orr, and near the spot used as his headquarters while engaged in trading with the Indians. His name appears on both the first and second Indian deed. Although his identity has not been definitely established, it is believed he is the same Moses Thomas who married Sarah Horton in 1742, and whose daughter, Sarah, was born in 1743. By 1762 he had six children, Sarah, Moses 2nd, Elias, Cyrus, Huldah and Hannah. (see notes on genealogy).

(2) Joseph Skinner and family settled on the large river flats, on the West side of the river, just a little distance below the mouth of the Callicoon Creek. These flats were known as the Ackhake Place or St. Tammany's Flats. Joseph Skinner had seven sons, Joseph, Jr., Benjamin, Daniel, Abner, Timothy, Calvin and Haggia; also two daughters, Martha and Huldah. He had married Martha Kinne on April 30, 1729, and they had all lived in the Town of Preston, New London County, Connecticut, until the day they moved to Cushetunk. Of his seven sons, the names of Benjamin, Daniel, Abner and Timothy all appear on at least one of the Indian Deeds. (see notes on genealogy). The senior Joseph Skinner's sojourn in his newly established home on St. Tammany's Flats was of rather short duration and terminated by his untimely death.

Skinner Disappears

Within a year or two after settling, the elder Mr. Skinner journeyed from home on business concerning the title to his lands and was never again seen alive. After waiting and praying for a considerable length of time, the good man's wife became reconciled to the belief that he was dead and would never return. Mrs. Skinner then returned to Connecticut, to be near her relatives, and was probably accompanied by her two daughters because no subsequent account of them is contained in the traditions of Cushetunk. Some time later his remains were found within about two miles of his home, on the bank of a small stream

near the residence of the late Hon. James C. Curtis, and were identified, among other things, by a prayer book found in one of his pockets and in which his name was written. Examination resulted in the conclusion that he had been shot, but why, or by whom, was never found out.

At the time of his death, Skinner could have been no younger than forty-seven years of age and therefore one of the older men in the settlement. He was, without question, recognized as a leader of the group so his death must have been a hard blow to the Company. Fortunately for the welfare of the settlement, his seven sturdy sons remained in the valley to carry on their father's work.

(3) Benjamin Skinner had three boys named Daniel, Jephtha and Ebenezer, all old enough to work. With their aid he made a clearing on the north branch of Calkin's Creek, near the center of the Town which had been laid out by the Company. No mention is made of Benjamin having a wife at the time, but it may be reasonably presumed that he did.

Continued Father's Work

Calvin, Haggia and Abner stayed in the homestead at the Ackhake Place and continued to make such improvements as their father had planned before his death and many of their own design. Timothy seems to have moved downstream to the mouth of Calkin's Creek where, as a millwright, he assisted Simon Calkin and others in erecting a grist-mill, or saw-mill, or both, where the village of Milanville now stands.

Daniel Skinner moved about quite a bit, became a sailor and went to sea. In 1758 he bought a half right in the Susquehanna Company and in 1760 a half share in the Delaware Company. He was married in 1761 to a widow named Richardson, who had a daughter named Phoebe, and at this time claimed to be a resident of Newtown, Sussex County, New Jersey. Nevertheless, in 1763 we find him again on the Ackhake Place where he remained until the time of his death in 1812.

(4) Moses Thomas was either the head man of the settlement from the beginning or was elected as such following the death of the elder Skinner. Aaron Thomas, a brother of

Moses, whose name appears on the first and second Indian Deeds, evidently did not bring his family to the settlement in the beginning and probably not until after 1758. According to the Preston vital records (Connecticut State Library) he married Zipporah Button on October 1, 1751; a son of this union was born in Preston in 1754 and named Aaron 2nd; another named Joel was born in 1758. There is no further record in the Town of Preston, Connecticut, but the manuscripts of Nathan Skinner include a notation to the effect that in 1763 "Aaron Thomas had at that time three sons and five daughters, and one after made six. Their names were Aaron 2nd, Joseph (Joel?), Benjamin, Dolly, Molly, Charity, Lois, Elsie and Rachael." Some of these were no doubt born on the shores of the Delaware. When this family did move to the settlement, they first occupied a site on the south side of Calkin's Creek, near its mouth, but moved later to the flats below Cocheton Falls. Local tradition gives Joseph's birth date as 1761-?

Parks at Bush's Glen

(5) Nathan Parks, named in the Indian Deed dated May 6, 1755, also of Preston, Connecticut, being baptized there on December 23, 1722, married Mary Walton on October 15, 1747. They are reported to have located on the lower end of the river flats near the point known as "Bush's Glen." They had at least one child, a son named Joshua, who later became famous as a raftsman associated with Daniel Skinner.

(6) Bezaleel Tyler, 2nd, the son of Bezaleel Tyler and Abigail Johnson, was born in 1715 at Branford, Conn. His wife's name was Sarah - - - - and his first son, named Bezaleel Tyler, 3rd, was born in Sharon, Connecticut, February 26, 1745. Bezaleel, 2nd, and his wife Sarah are reported to have settled at about the middle of the flat, recently owned by the Porr Brothers, where "Dry Brook" empties into the Delaware. They raised a large family, recorded by various historians as ranging from ten to twenty children. The first son, Bezaleel, 3rd, earned fame for the family name as a scout and captain in the Revolutionary War. A few of his other known children are sons Timothy, Silas, William, Nathaniel, Charles and Amos; daughters, Abigail and Sarah.

Sought to Expand Connecticut

(7) Isaac Tracy, whose name appears on all three of the deeds to the Delaware Company, and in each instance being the fourth grantee named, was one of the instigators of the movement to expand Connecticut in a westerly direction. It is believed that he, his cousin Christopher, and several associates, settled on the eastern, or New Jersey (New York) side of the river, as will be explained in greater detail further on in this story, but the facts concerning this settlement are shrouded in mystery.

(8) James Adams, listed as a grantee in the third Indian Deed, signed at Coshaiton, November 11, 1755, built his log house near the mouth of Calkin's Creek close to the house of Moses Thomas, and to this house he brought his wife and son, Deliverance Adams, then only seven or eight years old.

A Mr. Witter, whose first name is not known, also lived in the vicinity of Calkin's Creek near Moses Thomas. Six different persons by the name of Witter are named in the three Indian Deeds, so the Mr. Witter we refer to may have been any one of the six. His wife or children, if he had any, are not accounted for in any of the manuscripts or traditions of the region. In the fall of 1763 his heroic effort saved the Cushetunk settlement from complete annihilation by the Red Men and the story of this action will follow.

The foregoing paragraphs place in the Cushetunk Settlement most of the pioneers who came from Connecticut in the vanguard of the Company and whose names are listed as proprietors of the Delaware Company. The following paragraphs will deal with persons who also settled in the region but who came from various sections of the country.

Settlers from Other Places

(9) Simon Calkin and his brother John also came from Connecticut, but from the Town of Lebanon. John, the elder of the two, was born in Lebanon on March 23, 1723, and Simon (or Simeon) was born on March 9, 1737. John married Abigail Northrup in 1744, so it is likely that he brought her with him to Cushetunk. We have no record of Simon's marriage, nor do we have the names of his children, if any. But John was certainly the progenitor of a very

large family if we are to judge by the number of Calkins still residing in this region. John and Simon located at the place now known as Milanville, Pa. about 1757 and, as previously stated, built a mill of some description, either "saw" or "grist." Quinlan, in his History of Sullivan County, states "Calkins, the pioneer, was a doctor of talent and usefulness. His location was near Cocheton Falls. He afterwards removed to Wyoming." To which of the two brothers he alludes is not stated, but it is believed to have been John. Calkin's Creek, so frequently mentioned herein, was named for one or both of the brothers.

(10) Likewise, Cash's Creek, which empties into the main river at the present village of Damascus, is named after a pioneer named Daniel Cash, who was the first white man to locate on its banks. No more than this is known of Daniel Cash, and recent inquiries addressed to the Connecticut State Library have revealed no record of his former or subsequent life.

(11) Jedediah Willis, with his wife and two boys, settled near the spot then known as the Big Eddy (now Narrowsburg). Where he came from is not known, but he was present to defend Cushetunk in 1763 and lost his life in the engagement.

Conklin from Rockland County

(12) Nicholas Conklin came during the days of early settlement, it is said, from the region then known as Haverstraw Bay (Rockland County, N. Y.) He was of Dutch descent. Besides his wife he brought with him three sons named William, John and Elias. Elias was a sort of Indian Doctor and led a wild roving life. John was born on May 5, 1756. They were obliged to leave during the latter part of the French and Indian War, and again during the Revolution. They evidently retained their holdings in Cushetunk and, after fighting for the Independence, returned to take up where they left off. John and Elias Conklin then purchased lands in Lot No. 64 of the Hardenbergh Patent and resided there until about 1817. William purchased lands near Big Island.

(13) Joseph Ross and family came from Bound Brook, New Jersey, about 1756 and settled in the vicinity of the present Callicoon. They were induced to come to Cushetunk by

Joseph Griswold, a distiller, of New York City, who purchased about 6500 acres of land in the Hardenbergh Patent about the year 1750. Joseph Ross had two sons named John and James. John settled on the south side of the mouth of Callicoon Creek and James settled on the north side. The father, Joseph, was an adherent to the Crown (a Tory) during the Revolution and retained his life, and his holdings in Cushetunk, by virtue of sheer, unadulterated courage and cunning. Shortly after the outbreak of the Revolution, he was commissioned a captain (British Army) by Colonel Hooper and charged with taking care of the Indians in the region and keeping them in alliance with the Crown.

Settled on Griswold Lands

(14) A family named Young who came from Scotland in the year 1750 were also induced by Joseph Griswold to settle on his lands. They made their settlement on the New York side opposite Big Island, a little south of the Callicoon Creek. David Young was the father and his wife was an English woman. Their children were David, Thomas, John, George, and Isabella.

(15) Nathan Mitchell came from New Jersey and settled his lands on the east side of the river under a New Jersey title which was evidently found to be invalid, because we find that at a later date, after the Revolution, he was obliged to repurchase from proprietors of the Hardenbergh Patent. His wife, Betsy, was the oldest daughter of Captain Joseph Ross. Their sons were named Abraham, James, and Nathan Jr. Nathan Mitchell lived to a good old age and left a large family to carry on in Cushetunk.

(16) John Lassley came about the same time as David Young and took up lands adjoining Aaron Thomas, near Cocheton Falls. He married Sarah Tyler and had three children named Cornelius, Sarah and Betsy (or Betty).

(17) Simeon Bush was one of the early settlers but the exact date of his arrival in Cushetunk is not known. His wife was Hannah Smith of Orange County. They had three sons, John, George and Eli, and five daughters, Kes-iah, Polly, Wadie, Eleanor and Abbie.

Land Came as Peace Justice

(18) Robert Land was sent to

Cushetunk in 1763 as a Justice of the Peace under the Colonial Government. He brought his wife; two sons, John and Abel; and two daughters, Rebecca and Phoebe. Another son, Ephriam, was born in Cushetunk. Being a Tory, he was arrested early in the Revolution, but managed to escape and remained behind British lines until after the War, when he went to Canada with his wife, his son Ephriam, and one daughter. His son John remained behind, on his father's property, and married, Lily, the oldest daughter of David Skinner.

Local traditions account for a few other persons in the settlement during the early days of its existence, such as Nat Evans, John Smith, — Fay, — Cummins, Moses Kimball, Levi Kimball, Johnathan Tracy, James Pennin, — Stanton, — Trim, — Holly, Benjamin Ashley, Nathan Chapman, — Kellick and Doctor Payne, but exhaustive research has gained no information concerning them, other than their names as here

listed and a few minor happenings which will be related in another chapter.

Now, then, we have the names of all, or nearly all, those brave and venturesome pioneers who broke ground, so to speak, in that section of the Delaware River Valley then known as Cushetunk. Their right to settle in the region was backed, first, by the three deeds from the Delaware Indians procured in the manner prescribed by the laws of that time; second, by sanction of His Majesty's Colony of Connecticut; and thirdly, by a sincere belief that occupancy and improvement of the lands would result in binding their Red neighbors to an alliance with Great Britain against the French. They knew their claims were never accepted by the Government of Pennsylvania and that the Penns were contesting such claims. Between 1755 and 1761 the settlement progressed commendably and with little interruption, but after that date the story became vastly different.

CHAPTER III — GROWING PAINS

Those members of the Delaware Company who settled locations of their own selection on the west bank of the Delaware River knew that they were occupying lands claimed by the Government of Pennsylvania, but felt that there was no foundation for such claim. As far as they were concerned, the Charter granted to Connecticut by King Charles II was of much earlier date than the charter granted to William Penn by the same King, and the proprietors of Pennsylvania should concede that the second charter was in error. At any rate, while the heads of the two Colonies were arguing the point, the settlers at Cushetunk were busily taking root in the soil, or, figuratively speaking, "making hay while the sun shines." They could not be sure whether they were living in Connecticut or Pennsylvania. Most of the settlers did settle on the Pennsylvania side because of their respect for the clause in the Connecticut charter which excepted any lands "then actually possessed by any other Christian Prince or State." Their deeds also included lands on the east bank which were south of the Great, or Hardenbergh, Patent. They had bought and paid for such lands as well as the lands on the west bank, but they knew such lands to be either a part of the Province of New York or New Jersey. The Governments of those two Colonies were also arguing a point. The settlers who did erect their log houses on the east side of the river didn't know whether they lived in New York or New Jersey; very likely didn't care.

New Jersey Claim Confusing

The story of the New Jersey claim, if given in all detail, is of sufficient magnitude to warrant separate treatment. The complete story would fill more pages than this story of Cushetunk. Briefly, however, it is simply another case of overlapping charters and ignorance of geography. The northern line of the New Jersey Charter was described as beginning at the 41st degree of north latitude on the Hudson River and running thence, in a straight line, to Station Point at 41 degrees and 40 minutes on the Delaware (near Cohecton). The southern line of the New York, as claimed by that Province, started

at the same point on the Hudson River (or nearly so) and ran thence in a straight line to the southerly end of Great Minisink Island in the Delaware River. (This island is located eleven or more miles below Port Jervis.) These conflicting claims covered a pie shaped piece of disputed territory containing something like a million acres. The first Jersey claim line was run in 1719 and the dispute continued from then until 1769, when it was settled by Commissioners who ended the matter by dividing the "piece of pie" in half and establishing the present boundary line which strikes the Delaware at Port Jervis.

These several territorial disputes would have put the settlers at Cushetunk in a fine pot of stew except for the fact that they were living in such a remote section of the wilderness. The settlement was too far beyond the frontier to be visited frequently by clerks, constables, or tax collectors from their own Colony of Connecticut. The Government of that Colony permitted the settlers to govern themselves, and to the credit of those people at Cushetunk, it may be noted that they lived pretty close to the letter of Connecticut laws as they understood them. They were Christian people who could distinguish right from wrong and they governed themselves accordingly. There is nothing in the Tyler or Skinner manuscripts, or any tradition, which would indicate otherwise. At one time Daniel and Haggia Skinner were charged with beating and wounding some Indians at a Christmas Day celebration and a warrant was issued for their arrest, but the charge was proven to be the work of a mischief maker named athaniel Evons (at Evans?) and dropped before much harm was done to anyone.

Periodic Orders to Vacate

From time to time, on infrequent occasions, the Governor of Pennsylvania would issue a proclamation ordering the Cushetunk Settlers to vacate the west side of the river under pain of dire consequences. On other occasions, a constable from Jersey or New York would appear in the settlement to recruit able-bodied men for the militia; or a tax collector would pay a visit to make his lawful collections. When an officer from Jer-

sey paid such a call, all the settlers were found to be either Yorkers or holding their lands under the Connecticut title. When questioned by any such officer from New York, the answers were merely thrown in reverse. Constables and such, representing the Penns, were treated with disdain and sent away without accomplishing much more than delivering their Governor's compliments and whatever message might be. This may seem to be a rather unorthodox action to be exercised by such God fearing people but inasmuch as they were not troubled by representatives from their own Connecticut Government, why should they pay any attention to the demands of others? Thoes annoying emissaries were never accompanied by any military body to enforce the demands they carried, and therefore, nothing in the way of a disturbance ever occurred.

On September 16, 1761, Governor Hamilton issued one of his usual proclamations enjoining the Cushetunk settlers to depart, and forbidding others to intrude. This had no better effect than any previous order.

Census of Settlement

In the Archives of Pennsylvania (iv. 83, 84) there is a memorandum of one John Williamson who had visited Cushetunk in the spring of 1762 pursuant to an order from John Jennings, the Sheriff of Northampton County, for the purpose of determining the number and names of the settlers and any other particulars he might notice. He must have been hampered in his activities because the memorandum he submitted to the good Sheriff, under date of June 18th, can only be described as sketchy and incomplete. That memorandum reads, in part, to the following effect:

"Sixteen families are settled on the river; their farms spreading over seven miles. Forty men are in the settlement, living in log houses, and claiming their lands under title from Connecticut. Their head man is Moses Thomas, lives in ye 2nd settlement; his brother lives 1/2 mile from him and is named Aaron Thomas, lived in the first settlement.

3rd Settlement

"Isaac Tracy owns a sawmill
Christopher Tracy, brother
Johnathan Tracy, their cousin,
lives with Christopher
Reuben Johnes, lives with Isaac

Tracy
Moses Kimball, lives with Isaac
Tracy
Levi Kimball, lives with Isaac
Tracy
James Pennim
Daniel Cash
4th Settlement
Nathan Parks
- - - - - Tyler
- - - - - Cummins."

Invited (?) to Leave

The above would indicate that John Williamson's courage left him before he could finish his work. or that he was invited to leave the region soon after the settlers discovered the purpose of his errand. He fell quite short of accounting for the forty men. His list did not include Benjamin Skinner and his three sons on the North Branch of Calkins Creek, nor any of Calkins Creek were missed completely. His manner of numbering the settlements is also confusing. Moses Thomas was the first white man to erect any sort of dwelling in the region: Joseph Skinner, according to the best information available, started the second settlement. Williamson's numbers do not make sense, either geographically or chronologically.

Strangely enough, Williamson's report gives more information concerning that settlement which was previously described as "shrouded in mystery," than it does about the comparatively well known settlements. The settlement Williamson calls the "3rd Settlement" is the only one he put down in any kind of order, and that probably in its entirety. From this it would seem that the 3rd Settlement was the only one visited and that the residents there referred him to Moses Thomas, Aaron Thomas, Nathan Parks, etc., for information about the remaining groups, headed by them.

The most natural route for Williamson to take in order to reach Cushetunk would be northward via the Delaware River. Then, if what he calls the 3rd Settlement was the first or only one encountered, it would have been the most southerly of all the inhabited spots in the valley.

Mystery About Settlement

In the History of Sullivan County, 1875, Quinlan writes "There is a mystery about the original settlement at the mouth of the Ten Mile River, which after twenty years of patient

inquiry, we are unable to solve. We know that it was made under flattering circumstances; that it was broken up by the Indians in 1763, and that everyone of the residents was massacred. Beyond this, we can say nothing of it with certainty." . . . "There is a tradition in the neighborhood that the saw-mill and grist-mill which Chapman says was in the Cushetunk Colony previous to 1763 were here." . . . "Lotan Smith, in his unpublished history, says that Webb, who surveyed the Minisink Patent in 1762, declares that there was then a saw-mill at the mouth of the Ten Mile River."

(Note: This latter quotation from Quinlan was checked by the Historian of Sullivan County on December 6, 1950. Webb's field notes on the Minisink Patent are contained in Field Book No. 36, subdivision B, at page 199-3662, filed in the Department of State, at Albany, N. Y. A very thorough search of Webb's notes revealed no mention of any saw-mill at the mouth of the Ten Mile River. He merely records the fact that he reached that point (page 329) and then proceeded to survey down the Delaware.)

If Williamson's memorandum has any value at all, it is in the clue which it gives to the lost settlement mentioned by both Chapman and Quinlan. We know that Isaac and Christopher Tracy were members of the Delaware Company; that Isaac was one of the more important members of that Company and presumably active in its interests; that both they and Johnathan came from the same Town in Connecticut as most of the other Cushetunk settlers; and that they were all of about the right age to participate in such a venture. According to their genealogies, however, Christopher and Johnathan were the brothers and Isaac was their cousin. (See genealogy).

Several Individuals Traced

From the Connecticut State Library, this writer has obtained information on Reuben Jones, Moses Kimball and Levi Kimball, also, all from the vital records of the Town of Preston, as follows:

Reuben Jones, son of Ephriam and Margaret (Ames), born May 31, 1736. He could have been the one listed by Williamson as "Reuben Johnes, lives with Isaac Tracy."

Moses and Levi Kimball were broth-

ers, born in 1741 and 1745, respectively. Moses married in 1764 and had a son in 1766, and therefore did not die by the tomahawk at the Ten Mile River in 1763. Furthermore, we know that the same Levi Kimball settled along the Beaverkill River, on Westfield Flats, (now Roscoe) at a much later date. This eliminates those two.

The writer has been advised by the same source that — Pennin is not familiar as a Connecticut name is not record of him could be found. Further investigation may cast more light on the subject but, at this time, there is not enough information at hand to link the Tracys with the Ten Mile River Settlement. From a deposition of one James Hyndshaw, dated April 29, 1761, we learn that aptain Tracy and ten others were at Minisink en-route to Cushetunk. The Tracys, Kimballs, Reuben Jones and others are believed to have settled at the mouth of the Lackawaxen Creek rather than the Ten Mile River. However active he may have been at Cushetunk, Isaac Tracy must have been absent at the time of the Indian Massacre because he was still alive and active in affairs of the Delaware Company at Norwich, Connecticut, on November 12, 1767. (Susquehanna Papers—page 337.)

The destruction of that settlement at Ten Mile River is accounted for by the following narrative:

Although the people at Cushetunk had not been absolutely free from molestation by the Indians since they settled at Cushetunk, they nevertheless managed, by their pacific manner, to prevent any general uprising against them. In 1763, however, the Red Men "dug up the hatchet" and their reasons for doing so were many and varied. The entire story would be much too lengthy to relate here, so only the immediate reason affecting Cushetunk will be given.

The great Sachem of the Delawares, Tydescung, or Tedyuskung, holding council with his tribesmen along the Susquehanna River in the year 1763, was burned to death in his wigwam at night while all were asleep. The deviltry was discovered, at a later date, to be the work of several Iroquois Warriors who were visiting the Delawares on a peace mission. The assassins eluded detection and punishment by bearing false witness to

the effect that the foul deed had been performed by white intruders. The Delawares were so incensed by the happening that they held a war dance and sent out parties of young warriors, in all directions, to level their wrath and vengeance on the head of every white man they could find.

Annihilated All in Settlement

One such party, after crossing the intervening mountains, proceeded to the Delaware via the Lackawaxen Creek, intending to exterminate all their foes in the Cushetunk settlement, several miles up the river from the mouth of the Lackawaxen. They first attacked the settlement at the mouth of the Ten Mile River and laid it waste by fire and tomahawk. It is believed that not a single human, man, woman or child, escaped to tell what happened. Every vestige of civilization, except the bare fields were destroyed. If any person had been able to escape that terrible slaughter, he, or she, would certainly have tried to reach the folks up river with a warning. Such was not the case.

After completing their work of devastation at the Ten Mile River, the savages moved stealthily upstream toward the next group of habitations. These were the cabin and outbuildings of Jedediah Willis, located near the Big Eddy (Narrowsburg), which were found to be empty. A short time previously, Willis had moved his family to the region of Calkins Creek where a rough fortification, or palisades, had been built around the house of Moses Thomas. There were now two forts in the settlement, the one just mentioned, and another farther up the river and on the east side thereof, a little below the point where the bridge is now located. The only men in the vicinity of the former fort on the day of the attack were Moses Thomas, Jedediah Willis and Mr. Witter. Willis had sent his two boys down to the vicinity of their farm to clean some grain, but they had been gone from the fort only a short time when they returned with the advice that a large band of Indians was approaching. As soon as all the women and children had been gathered into the fort, everything was put in readiness to meet the attack. The Indians had intended to spend some time in scouting to determine whether or not their force was strong

enough to make a successful attack. In the meantime, the three white men had decided to do a little scouting on their own behalf, feeling that perhaps the boys had given a false alarm. Just as they rose the bank below Calkins Creek, the Indians discovered them, fired upon Thomas and killed him instantly. The other two men ran for the fort, but while crossing the creek Willis was shot down. Witter made good his return to the fort.

Man, Women Defend Fort

At the sound of firing, Elias Thomas and Deliverance Adams, both about fourteen years old, ran to the river where there were two canoes, crossed the river and started toward Minisink, through the woods, for help. The son of Moses Thomas, Moses 2nd, and a Master Fay were sent up river on horseback to warn the people in the upper settlements. This left only one man in the fort, Witter, but a goodly number of women, including Mrs. Thomas with her two daughters, Hulda, about 16, and Hannah, 7.

The Indians did not know, of course, that Witter was the only adult male left to defend the fort, or they would have attacked immediately. They hesitated cautiously, however, at some great distance to deliberate on their plan of attack. Witters, possessing every characteristic of a border warrior, took advantage of the Indians' hesitancy. Witters furnished each woman and grown girl with two or three muskets a-piece; plenty of balls and powder, and stationed them at the port-holes with orders to fire a volley whenever he should so command. When the Indians had decided to move up and came within good sight of the fort, a gun was protruding from every port and Witters was issuing commands to his "men" in a loud military tone. He ordered them to shoot every Indian that came in range. The fort standing in an open space a little distance from the river, there was no way the Indians could approach without being exposed to gunfire, except under shelter of the river bank. A few of them came up under the bank, as close to the fort as possible, to see what could be seen. Witters' sharp eyes had been watching the shadowy forms crawling along and he had whispered a word of preparedness to the women. He kept careful watch for a considerable length of time and was fin-

ally rewarded by the sight of a Red Man's head being slowly raised over the edge of the bank for a better look. He took careful aim and shouted the order to fire. The Indian tumbled backward down the bank on his way to the "happy hunting ground." The volley of fire was so great and had such deadly effect that the Indians were completely intimidated. They dragged their dead comrade away and joined the others out of sight of the fort. After about an hour and a half the entire force returned.

Indians Retreat

While the Indians were away some men from the other side of the river came over to the fort in the two canoes the boys had taken across. These men got into the fort without being noticed by the Red Men. Seeing the canoes and knowing that when they had retreated the canoes were on the other side, the Indians reasonably supposed that the fort had been reinforced by quite a number of men. Fearing the possibility that more reinforcements might arrive soon, they felt their safest move would be to leave the neighborhood. They retreated by way of Calkins Creek, in the direction from whence they had come.

The families in the fort started the next day to leave the country. Before going far they were intercepted by a party of men coming to their relief in response to the call of the two boys who crossed the river in canoes. They then returned to the fort and their homes, with the exception of Moses Thomas' widow. She, with her two daughters and one son, continued on to Goshen, and from there to Connecticut.

Bezaleel Tyler, 2nd, had gathered his large family together at the first warning of danger, and with them made his escape through the woods in the direction of Esopus (Kingston). Darkness soon overtook them so they struck up a fire and camped for the night. Here they were overtaken by Nat Evans and family, Master Fay and young Moses Thomas. They all got away safely, but when all was again quiet returned to Cushetunk. The settlement was not further molested by Indians until some time during the Revolutionary War.

Marauding Ends

About this time the French and Indian War came to a close, leaving England victorious. Treaties were made with the Indians, new frontiers drawn, and for several years the pioneers were free from fear of the tomahawk and scalping knife. Times began to improve for the settlers in Cushetunk and new families came to live there. The old settlers began to see the futility of continuing the title controversy with the Penns. First one and then another would ask Pennsylvania for a title. In 1770 we find Daniel Skinner asking for, and obtaining, a warrant from the Pennsylvania Land Office for 140 acres. He also asked for a 100 acre warrant to cover the lands at Ackhake. In 1772 Moses Dean and Joshua Parks each asked for warrants for land in the place now known as Damascus. In 1775 Moses Thomas, 2nd, asked for a warrant to cover the old Thomas farm. The Tylers, Calkins and others undoubtedly asked for and obtained similar warrants for their lands because those families are still in the neighborhood.

First Raft in 1764

Daniel Skinner, as mentioned before, is given credit for floating the first timber raft down the Delaware. This first raft was run in 1764 and the business of rafting continued from that day until about 1900. Daniel associated himself with Joshia Parks and the two became famous along the Delaware for their rafting enterprises. The raftsmen honored Daniel with the title of "Lord High Admiral" and Joshia with the title of "Boatswain", which titles they retained for the remainder of their lives.

To carry the story of Cushetunk to any greater limits would be impractical unless it was intended to give the reader the complete histories of the Towns of Tusten, Cocheton and Delaware. The histories of those towns are good stories in their own right and should be treated separately. Therefore, as most details of the great venture of the Delaware Company has been recorded in these pages, the tale can be brought to an end with a salute to the intrepid men and women from Connecticut who lived and died in Cushetunk.

GENEALOGICAL NOTES

The notes given below were furnished by Dr. James Brewster, State Librarian, Connecticut State Library, Hartford 1, Conn. Thanks is hereby extended to Dr. Brewster for his valuable assistance.

"The names which you give, as well as most of the 250 or more listed in the 1755 deed, are recognizable in many cases as being of eastern Connecticut origin, and some of them we can connect with reasonable certainty to the towns of Preston, Norwich, etc. For instance, of the names you mention we find:

Tracy—Isaac, s. Francis and Elizabeth (Parrish), b. Nov. 9, 1716; m. Mehetable Rude, July 13, 1742; had son Isaac, b. Apr. 10, 1743.

Christopher, s. Christopher and Lydia (Parrish), b. June 1, 1711, m. (1) Elizabeth Tyler, Mar. 28, 1734, she died Sept. 11, 1757, and he probably m. (2) Rose Tracy, Mar. 23, 1758.

Jona than, s. Christopher and Lydia (Parrish) b. Dec. 16, 1713; perhaps m. Lucy Avery, of Norwich, May 19, 1747. (All from our Preston vital recs.)

Jones—Reuben, s. Ephraim and Margarei (Ames) b. May 31, 1736.

Kimball—Moses, s. Jacob and Mary (Parks), b. May 6, 1741; probably m. Mary Satterlee, Feb. 9, 1764; had son Moses, b. May 11, 1766.

Levy, s. Jacob and Mary (Parks)

b. Apr. 26, 1745, brother of Moses above.

Skinner—Joseph, m. Martha Kinne, Apr. 30, 1729; had sons Joseph bap. Sept. 13, 1730, Benjamin, bap. Mar. 7, 1731, Daniel bap. May 13, 1733, and Abner bap. May 4, 1735.

Thomas—Aaron, m. Zipporah Britton, Oct. 1, 1751; had several children, including sons Aaron b. 1754 and Joel '58, but no Moses.

Parks—a Nathan m. Mary Walton, Oct. 15, 1747; also a Nathan, s. Adam and Lyd'a (Tracy) b. Sept. 3, 1739. The 1st is perhaps the Nathan, s. James, bap. Dec. 23, 1722. All the above data from our Preston vital recs.)

Calkins—John m. Sarah Huntington, Apr. 9, 1721; had several children including sons John, b. March 23, 1723 (m. Abigail Northrup, '44) and Simon or Simeon, b. Mar. 9, 1737-8. (From our Lebanon vital records.)

Moses Thomas—a Moses of Stafford mar. Sarah Horton of Somers, 1742, in Somers; they had daughter Sarah b. 1743 in Somers, but no other children are recorded there or in Stafford.

Bezaleel Tyler—a Bezaleel mar. Abigail Johnson, 1711-12, Branford; had son Bezaleel b. 1715. The latter may have mar. Sarah—and had son Bezaleel b. 1745-6, Sharon. The last may have been called "3rd", and may possibly have been the one killed at Battle of Minisink 1779.

