

INDIAN TRADER TROUBLES.

The Indian trade was undoubtedly one of the most profitable industries pursued during the early times in the province of Pennsylvania. Long before settlements had been established at any distance from Philadelphia Indian traders had already made their way beyond the confines of civilization in pursuit of this desirable trade. For a time the Indians themselves carried their peltries to Philadelphia, but after a while, not willing to await their arrival there, men in the fur trade began to take out licenses to pursue the business in the interior, and soon the frontier country fairly swarmed with these bold and hardy adventurers.

So far as is certainly known, Canadian Frenchmen were the first to come into this country and make a special business of trading for furs. Some came as early or earlier than 1700. If not the first, then among the first, was Martin Chartiere. Like nearly all the rest, he took an Indian wife. That generally secured their adoption by the tribe from which the woman was taken and secured them the trade of that tribe. His trade was with the Algonquins, chiefly the Shawanese and Delawares. In order to secure the good will of the Indians, Penn's Land Commissioners frequently gave these traders with squaw-wives tracts of land. Chartiere obtained such a tract, extending from the mouth of the Conestoga river for some distance up the Susquehanna. Here he built his trading post. After his death, in

1708, his son, Peter Chartiere, inherited his estate. He, also, was married to an Indian woman. But, true to his French descent, he went with that country when the French and Indian War broke out, and proved a troublesome foe from his Indian connections. Peter Bazaillon was, perhaps, the best known of all these French Indian traders. He came here from Chester county, and at first established his trading post in the northwestern part of the county, probably in Donegal township. His wife, Martha, was an English woman, a zealous member of the Church of England, and was largely instrumental in the erection of St. John's Episcopal Church. Both lived to be very old, and both are buried in St. John's Episcopal churchyard, their graves marked by handsome headstones. Peter Bazaillon has impressed his name indelibly on this county in the "Peter's Road," a trail which he is supposed to have established in going from his home, in East Caln township, Chester county, to his trading post further in the West. James Le Tort was another of these French Canadians, and an early comer. Like the rest, he first located in Chester county, from whence he came to Conoy creek, where was the home of the Conoy tribes. Later he went to Carlisle and finally moved northward to the forks of the Susquehanna.

Scotch Indian Traders.

But the Indian trade was far too profitable to be left in the control of a few Frenchmen. Another, and an equally enterprising, race began making its way to the frontier and there took up the Indian trade. These men were the Scotch-Irish, staunch Presbyterians, and never excelled as a race of Commonwealth builders. They

were an enterprising class of men, who were more given to politics and trade than to agriculture, and were the first of all to push the frontier to the Alleghenies and beyond. They were many in number, and some of them managed to accumulate large estates. Some of the more prominent ones may be named. Among these were James Patterson, who came here about 1717; Peter Ailen, in 1718, and Jonas Davenport, in the same year. Robert and William Wilkins, with Thomas, the son of Robert; John Lowry, John Burt, Samuel Smith, Moses Combs, John Boggs, the Lowrys, Lazarus and John, and Lazarus' sons, Alexander, John, Daniel and James, John and Thomas Harris, John Galbraith, Col. James Hamilton, John Gibson, and his brother, George, John Kennedy, Dennis Sullivan, Gordon Howard, Simon Girty, the famous renegade and outlaw—all were at one time traders in this county. But there were men of other races also, and foremost among them was Joseph Simon, a Jew, who came here about 1740 and established himself as a general trader in the city of Lancaster, having purchased the property now occupied by Messrs. Watt & Shand. He was the wealthiest of all the men of any nationality engaged in the Indian trade. He commanded a very large capital, and very frequently acted as the banker for his less fortunate brethren in the Indian trade. For a period of forty years he was associated with Alexander Lowry. His operations extended into the Western country far beyond the borders of the State of Pennsylvania. As Mr. Simon has been made the subject of a memoir by Vice President Evans, which may be found in Vol. 3, No. 7, of our Society's publications, I need

not refer to him more particularly now.

With this general introduction to my more immediate subject, I shall now proceed to the latter, which deals with what is, perhaps, the most notable and costly event in the entire Indian trade of Pennsylvania.

Where They Went.

It has already been said that the enterprising character of these men led them into the far Western country, some penetrating even as far West as the Mississippi. The reason for this was the great competition caused by so many traders. These venturesome men, with trains of pack animals, loaded with merchandise adapted to the Indian trade, sought out the Red Men in their distant homes, established trading posts among them, not only by their consent, but at their request, under licenses granted by the provincial authorities, one of which is shown here, this evening, and whose safety and interests were guaranteed by the Indian tribes themselves, chiefly Shawanese, Hurons and Delawares, who had gone from the eastern part of this State to the country around the Ohio river, and who were also closely allied with the Iroquois Confederacy, or Six Nations. But their trade extended northward to the Great Lakes and southward into Kentucky and Tennessee.

The breaking out of the French and Indian War, in 1754, not only put an end to this Indian trade from that time until its close, in 1762, but resulted in great losses to some of the traders, who were unable to get their supplies of merchandise to places of safety before the French and their Indian allies pounced upon them and seized them. As a meas-

ure of safety, the Indian traders, when possible, united their pack trains, but even then were sometimes overpowered and their furs and pack animals taken from them and the escorts killed.

Business Resumed After French and Indian War.

At the conclusion of that war, undismayed and anxious to make up their losses, our traders began their efforts to regain their profitable trade as vigorously as before. While some had capital of their own, others, who had lost what they had, borrowed from their more fortunate brethren, and once more took up the pursuit of the fur trade. The summer of 1763 saw no fewer than twenty-three of these Indian traders on the way beyond the confines of civilization. More and far greater trouble awaited them. Dissatisfied with the results of the late war, Pontiac, the greatest of all the Western Indian chieftains, had begun his conspiracy to exterminate the English throughout the Western country. When these twenty-three traders reached Washington county, in the southwestern part of the State, they learned that Pontiac had already gone on the warpath and was even then besieging Fort Pitt, at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela rivers. Colonel Alexander Lowry was in command of the company and the pack train.

Of course, the presence of so large a caravan of traders and goods could not be concealed, and was well known to Pontiac and his allied tribes. It was an opportunity not to be neglected. While encamped on the site of the present city of Washington, the county seat of the county of the same name, the three tribes already named

suddenly attacked Colonel Lowry, while he was encamped at a spring about four miles east of Fort Bedford. The traders had not calculated on such a reception, and were consequently unprepared to make a serious resistance. A number of employes in the service of the Indian traders were killed, the Indians obtained possession of most of the goods, carried off all they could, destroyed much more, and pursued the fleeing traders almost to the Susquehanna. Very few of the traders were able to save anything out of the general wreck. Most of them lost their all and were driven into bankruptcy. Some, like Joseph Simon and Colonel Lowry, could easily bear their losses, but a majority found their losses so great that they were financially ruined.

Who They Were.

The names of these Indian traders were as follows: William Trent, Robert Callender, David Franks, Joseph Simon, Levy Andrew Levy, Philip Boyle, John Baynton, Samuel Wharton, George Morgan, Joseph Spear, Thomas Smallman, Samuel Wharton, administrator of John Welch, deceased; Edmund Moran, Evan Shelby, Samuel Postlethwait, John Gibson, Richard Winston, Dennis Crohon, William Thompson, Abraham Mitchell, James Dundas, Thomas Dundas and John Ormsby.

The Losses Incurred.

The goods taken and destroyed amounted in value to the very large sum of £80,862, or \$215,628.67. One hundred and forty years ago that amount of money was, perhaps, equal to twice the sum to-day. Of course, these men who were despoiled of their goods at once took measures to re-

coup themselves for their losses. But to whom should they look? Although they held traders' licenses from the Province of Pennsylvania to pursue their calling within the bounds of the Province, they could not look to the latter to reimburse them, for their losses were not caused by any action of the province, either directly or indirectly. There was but one recourse, and that was to the authors of their misfortunes, the Indians themselves.

But the Indians had no money. They had plenty of wampum, but wampum was not exchangeable for Spanish milled dollars or English gold at any bank in North America, so recompense of that kind was out of the question. There was but one other way. The Six Nations and their allies, the Hurons, the Delawares, and the Shawanese, still owned vast tracts of land in Western New York, Pennsylvania and Virginia, which had not yet been purchased from them by the existing Colonial Governments. By the treaty made with these Indians at Easton, in 1758, and afterwards ratified by the English Crown, all the country west of the Allegheny Mountains was allowed to the Indians as their hunting grounds. Herein, and herein only, seemed a way to recover in an indirect way the sum of which they had been robbed.

The Claims Presented.

Sir William Johnson, of Johnson Hall, New York, was at this time the King's Commissioner of all Indian affairs in the English colonies, and to him the claims of these traders were submitted. As there was no dispute as to their justness, that eminent personage in the Indian history of the country promised to do all in his power to bring the Indians to acknowledge them and to make recompense therefor in the only way possible.

In 1764 the King, being desirous of having a fixed boundary line established between the country of the Indians and Pennsylvania, Maryland and Virginia, instructed Sir William to sound the Six Nations on the subject and learn, among other things, whether they would sell all the lands owned by them east of the Ohio river, as far as the Allegheny Mountains, and make that stream the boundary line on the West. On April 29, 1765, a conference was accordingly opened with the Six Nations at Johnson Hall, the seat of Sir William, which ended on May 5. At that conference Sir William brought up the question of making restitution to the Indian traders, and addressed them as follows: "You know the treacherous and cruel part acted by some of your people at Loggs Town, and about the Ohio, about two years ago. You then plundered numbers of the traders, who were supplying you with goods. This has induced them to apply to me, and to desire I would lay before you their distresses, that you might give them a tract of land and compensate them in some measure for their great losses. I need not tell you how incumbent it is on you to agree to their desires, as you must all be sensible they were ruined by some of your people in a time of peace, and when they were supplying your necessities. This conduct is sufficient to make the traders very shy of going to your country, and, therefore, I think it indispensably to your interest to grant this request, which, though it will be but a small reward, will show the world that you repent of what is past, and, like honest men, are desirous of making some restitution for the damages you have committed. I expect you will, without delay, give an answer, and I wish it may be a favorable one, as it will be to your credit."

They Are Taken Into Consideration.









On May 6, an Onondaga chief, speaking for the Six Nations, made a reply. Among other things, he said: "The request of the traders shall be complied with, and we shall agree to give them some lands near Fort Pitt." Before the conference ended a protocol was drawn up, the ninth article of which read: "That many of the traders who were plundered and severely treated by the Delawares in 1763, having represented the great distresses to which they were thereby reduced, and prayed for relief; the Delawares, therefore, are to fall immediately upon a method for making them some restitution by a grant of lands, provided His Majesty shall approve thereof, and the Six Nations first give their approbation."

At a conference held at Johnson Hall, on July 13, 1765, with the Mingo Indians, Sir William explained to the Shawanese, Delawares and Mingos the several articles of the former treaty made with the Six Nations, with all of which they were pleased.

The Indians having agreed to sell the lands between the Allegheny Mountains and the Ohio river, as was requested by Sir William Johnson in 1765, a treaty to that effect was made at Fort Stanwix (Rome, N. Y.) at a general congress held there with the Six Nations on November 4, 1768. At this treaty the question of granting compensation to the Indian traders came up for final decision. It resulted in the drawing up of the following document: "To all people to whom these presents shall come, greeting: Know ye that we, Abraham, a Mohawk chief, Sennghois, an Oneida chief, Saquarrisera, a Tuscarora chief, Chenaugbeata, a chief of the Onondaga council, Tagaia, a Cayuga chief, and Gaustarex, a Seneca chief; chiefs and

sachems of the United Six Nations, and being and effectually representing all the tribes of the said Six Nations send greeting. Whereas (here follow the names of the twenty-three Indian traders already given) in and by their

Given under my Hand at Johnson Hall, the third Day of April 1764

<i>Tagaamadie</i>		<i>Sayenqueraghta</i>		<i>Wm Johnson</i>
<i>Kaamijes</i>		<i>Wanughstisae</i>		
<i>Chonedagaw</i>		<i>Taganoodie</i>		
<i>Aughnawawis</i>		<i>Tanyagua</i>		

**NAMES OF SOME OF THE CHIEF SACHEMS OF THE SIX NATIONS,
WITH THEIR SEVERAL TRIBAL SYMBOLS ATTACHED.**

several and respective letters or powers of attorney, duly signed, sealed and delivered by them, and now produced, interpreted and explained to us, have constituted, nominated and appointed William Trent, of the county of Cumberland, and Province of Pennsylvania, merchant, their lawful attorney and agent, to ask, solicit and demand and receive from the sachems, councillors and warriors of the said Six United Nations, a grant of a tract of land, as a compensation, satisfaction or retribution for the goods, merchandise and effects of the said William Trent and the traders aforesaid, which the Shawanese, Delaware and Huron tribes, tributaries of the said Six Nations (contrary to all good faith and in violation of their repeated promises of safety and protection to their persons, servants and effects, while trading in their country), did in the spring of the year one thousand seven hundred and sixty-three, violently seize upon and unjustly appropriate to their own use

.....And Whereas application was formally made to the said Six Nations by Sir William Johnson, baronet, at the requisition of the aforesaid traders, who had sustained and suffered the losses aforesaid, for a retribution for the same, which the said Six Nations promised and agreed to.....

And Whereas the said Sir William Johnson, baronet, has now at this present Congress reminded the said Six Nations of their said promise, and they, being heartily agreed thereto, as an instance of their justice and concern for the said losses, do therefore by these presents signify, publish and declare that we, the said Abraham, Sennghois, Saquarrisera, Cenausbeata, Tagaia, Gaustarex, chiefs and sachems of the said Six United Nations, and being and effectually as aforesaid, representing all the tribes of the Six United Nations, for and in consideration of the sum of eighty-five thousand nine hundred and sixteen pounds, ten shillings eight pence, lawful money of the province of New York (the same being the amount of the goods and merchandise which was unjustly seized and taken, as aforesaid, by the Shawanese, Delaware and Huron tribes of Indians, aforesaid)

.....whereof just and fair accounts have on oath and affirmation been produced, interpreted and explained to us, and which, at our desire, are now lodged and deposited with the said Sir William Johnson, baronet: and for and in consideration of the sum of five shillings, lawful money aforesaid to us in hand paid by the said William Trent, the receipt whereof we do hereby acknowledge, do give, grant, bargain and sell unto his Majesty, his heirs and successors, to and for the only use of the said William Trent, in his own right, and as attorney aforesaid: all that tract or parcel of land,

beginning at the southerly side of the mouth of the Little Kenhawa Creek, where it empties itself into the Ohio, and running thence southeast to Laurel Hill, thence along the Laurel Hill until it strikes the river Monongahela, thence down the stream of the said river, Monongahela, according to the several courses thereof, to the southern boundary line of the Province of Pennsylvania; thence westerly along the course of the said province boundary line as far as the same shall extend, and from thence by the same course to the river Ohio, thence down the said river Ohio, according to the several courses thereof, to the place of beginning, etc, etc., etc."

What the Grant Included.

That goodly tract of land, as far as I have been able to trace it on the present maps, embraces the entire counties of Ritchie, Doddridge, Tyler, Pleasants, Wetzel and part of Monongahela, Manor, Harrison, Lewis, Gilmer, Calhoun and Wood, in the State of West Virginia; five entire counties and the greater part of seven others. That would seem to have been a liberal compensation to the traders for their losses. I have been unable to get the exact area in square miles and acres, but have done so very nearly.

Our Vice President, Mr. Evans, has fallen into error in estimating the extent of this grant. He places it at more than one-half of the entire area of the present State of West Virginia. A careful tracing along the lines indicated by the grant shows that the five counties already mentioned as lying wholly within the ceded territory are only 1,577 square miles in extent and the seven others partially cover 2,570. If we allot half the area of these seven counties, 1,285 square miles, to the other five, we get a total

area of 2,862 square miles, or 1,831,680 acres. The entire area of the State is 24,780 square miles, or 15,859,200 acres, so we see the land given to the traders was only about one-eighth of the area of the State instead of one-half—as Mr. Evans states. In other words, the tract was just about three times the size of Lancaster county.

Virginia Heads Them Off.

Had the despoiled traders been able to realize on it, they might, perhaps, have made a good thing out of it, even then. As it was, they found the way barred to their Canaan. The tract lay within the bounds of what the State of Virginia claimed as her territory, and which she had already in her possession, under the patent granted to Sir Walter Raleigh by Queen Elizabeth, which covered all the lands from the Virginia coasts westward to the Indies. The Virginia Legislature refused to recognize the Indian grant. A delegation was sent there by the associated Indian traders, and strong efforts were made to have the State recognize the justice of the claim. The opinions of the most eminent lawyers in this country and in Great Britain were also secured, and they were uniformly in favor of the validity of the Indian grant. Evidence was abundantly brought forth to show that Virginia had time and again recognized the same kinds of grants when her own citizens were the beneficiaries. To the great discredit and shame of the Virginia House of Burgesses, and the eminent men who composed it at that time, the claim was finally rejected. As if ashamed of its course, and having some regard for the great losses that had come upon these innocent claimants, she made a tender of a certain amount of lands far

to the west of her present boundaries, to which she had or pretended to have a claim. This offer was, unfortunately, not accepted, and by that unwise action the unfortunate traders lost their chance of securing compensation.

The Traders' Mistake.

There is hardly any doubt that if the agents of the company had at once proceeded to London they would have had no difficulty in securing a recognition of their grant from the Crown. The latter virtually endorsed their claim by ordering Sir William Johnson to present it at the same time that the Crown asked and secured the cession of all the lands lying between the Alleghenies and the Ohio. By asking for and accepting those lands the Crown conceded the Indians the right to dispose of them, and also of others. If they did not belong to the Indians, why should the King have dealt with them for their cession? But they wasted time in dealing with Virginia, and only went to London after Virginia turned them down. Before they got the ear of the Crown officers the war with the colonies broke out, and then even the King's authority counted for nothing.

It seems the company's trusted agents, Mr. Trent and Mr. Morgan, were unfaithful. Without consulting their principals here in Pennsylvania, they began to dicker for large areas in the present State of Indiana on their own account, wasting the time and the money of the company in so doing. From first to last these Indian traders had a hard run of luck.

The Indiana Land Company Organized

But I have gone ahead of my subject somewhat and must retrace my steps to narrate the events that follow-

ed closely after the grant had been obtained from the Indians. As these lands were located in a then far away and unsettled region, how to dispose of them became the question. The tract was too large to be utilized by the traders themselves. The usual plan employed then and since under like circumstances was resorted to. A company was formed, under the name of the Indiana Land Company, which was to dispose of the land at the best price obtainable for the benefit of the company, which was, of course, composed of the suffering traders. They opened books, adopted rules and regulations, kept minutes, and proceeded in the usual prescribed forms in such cases. It is possible these books may be still in existence somewhere. They certainly were until a comparatively recent period, because I have here photographic reproductions of several pages taken out of the Company's minute book, and which I submit as a part of this paper. They show that, including the original losses, the interest on the same for thirty years, from 1763 to 1793, together with all the expenses incurred in sending agents to Virginia and Europe, as well as for moneys spent in attending various meetings, the sum total footed up, according to these accounts, to \$504,498.67. If we deduct the sum of £97,035, claimed as interest between 1763 and 1793, the actual losses and expenses of the Indiana Company were, from the first to the making out of these accounts, \$245,738.67, an enormous sum, the times and circumstances considered.

From the character of the accompanying documents it would seem that the company had employed the distinguished jurist, William Rawle (1759-1836), of Philadelphia, to take charge of their affairs, but with what

end in view I do not know. Probably to ascertain the expenses incurred in pursuing their claims, for the purpose of collecting or apportioning them among the surviving members of the company.

Some of the details as given in the foregoing paper I have found in a very rare tract called "Plain Facts," written in the interests of the company, that is preserved in the Judge Yeates addition to the Lancaster Law Library, said to be one of the only two copies in existence. A few others were gleaned from Mr. Evans' sketch of Joseph Simon, while others were obtained from various sources.

The Losses and Expenses in Detail.

The following statement of the original losses and the expenses incurred by the Indiana Land Company in trying to secure an acknowledgment of the justice of their claims from Virginia and the British crown is copied from a paper in the minute book of the company:

"An estimate of the Expenses of the Indiana Company have been put together, with a short History of their Transactions for the information of Mr. Rawle, to be returned to George Morgan.

"Say—

First Losses Penna. Money.	£80,862
Interest thereon from May 1763 to 1793 at 6 per ct. per annum	97,035
Expenses & Interest there- on	5,000
	<hr/>
	£182,897
Add pd by B W & M to Alex. Lowry & why with In- terest	4,000
	<hr/>
	£186,897

“An estimate of the Expenses the Indiana Company has been put to—

“1st. William Trent devoted most of his time from 1764 to 1768 in collecting the Amts. & Powers of Attorney from the Suffering Traders in which he was frequently aided by Robert Callendar & Samuel Wharton. His time and his Expenses say.... 500

“2nd. He and Mr. Wharton attended at the Treaty at Fort Stamix, & on Sir William Johnson, preparatory to the Treaty, several Months—Their Expenses alone amounted to 200
Their Time say 4 Months..... 200
And in small presents to Indians 150

“3rd. They went to England under the Idea of obtaining a confirmation from the Crown but were told & had Advice of eminent Counsel that the King’s Confirmation was unnecessary; for the Title was perfect without it. In this Business however they must have expended1000

“Note: Instead of returning to America and uniting with the Parties in taking Possession of the Lands & dividing or disposing of them, Messrs. Trent & Wharton united with a number of Noblemen & others in an application to the Crown, for the Purchase of a very extensive Tract of Country on the Ohio; & the Contract was completed insofar as set forth in ‘Plain Facts,’ page 149 &c when News arrived of the Battle of Lexington, which put a stop to all Proceedings respecting Vandalia. In this Negotiation the Indiana Company were not interested, nor were any of them to be interested except Mr. Wharton & Mr. Trent themselves;

The Partners in Vandalia, resident in America, were Mr. Wharton's Father, all his Brothers and some of his particular Friends; to the Exclusion even of John Baynton & George Morgan, or the Creditors or Company of Baynton, Wharton & Morgan, who supported Mr. Wharton in England & his Family in America, principally during the term of his Negotiation. Therefore neither Mr. Wharton's Expenses in England from 1769 to 1780, when he returned to America, nor Major Trent's, can be brought into this Acct.

"I have thought it best to mention the above to Mr. Rawle, because it has been adduced as an Argument, in the Legislature of Virginia against the Indiana Claim, 'that the Claimants or their Agents, went to England to solicit a Confirmation from the Crown of the Indian Deed, but not being able to obtain it, they consolidated themselves with the Vandalia Company and made Proposals to the Crown to purchase the whole Tract called Vandalia, of which Indiana is a part; thus renouncing their Claim under the Indian Deed as untenable.'

"In answer to this Argument, should it be repeated, we may assert that neither the Company, or any Individual thereof, was privy to this Negotiation, nor were we made acquainted with the Nature of it, until after Mr. Wharton's & Mr. Trent's return to America. That a Reservation was made by the Crown, in the Sale to ye Vandalia Company, of all legal and equitable claims within the Tract called Vandalia; and we are told that the Vandalia Company by a Written Agreement with Messrs. Wharton & Trent, recognized the Indiana Company's Claim as just. I am Possessed of a copy of this Recognition. (See

minutes of the Indiana mentioned below at Pittsburg, Sep. 2, 1775. Page 1 & 2, delivered herewith to Mr. R.)

“Estimate continued.

“In the year 1775, G. Morgan, taking into Consideration the critical situation of the Company’s Claim, solicited a number of the claimants to meet him at Pittsburg, where when met on notice duly given by Wm. Trent sundry Resolutions were entered into; and another Meeting agreed upon to be held at Carlisle in November the same year. At this Meeting certain Resolutions were entered into which produced all the subsequent Proceedings, minuted in the Indiana Company’s Book, now delivered to Mr. Rawle. As these minutes are not entered into that Book, which I think they ought to have been, as they contain several important particulars, I now deliver them to Mr. Rawle, to be returned to me with all the other Papers when he is done with them.

“4th. At the Meeting at Pittsburg each person paid his own expenses, which, with £6 given to Geo. Roots, Esq. (who undertook to present the Company’s Petition therein mentioned to his Majesty’s Council of Virginia, for the Independence of America was not then declared), amounted to about..... 50
And their Traveling Charges to and from Carlisle and whilst there to about.....

“The next meeting of the Company was at Lancaster, December 11th, 1775, where their Expenses might have amounted (including Traveling Expenses from Maryland, Rhode Island, &c.) to..... 100

“Note: At this Meeting all the former Proceedings were approved of & the Parties met adjourned to meet again at the Indian Queen Tavern in Philadelphia Dec. 20. Here the Parties adjusted and settled their respective claims and entered into the Indentures & Agreements which are minuted in their Journal from page 1 to Page —

“5th. Their Expenses at this Meeting & Contributions to Council amounted to perhaps..... 150

“6th. From this Time forward, the Expenses of the Company can be exactly ascertained by their Books, amounting to say.....1000

“7th. Since G. M. has undertaken the Business it has & will cost him”

From the above note it will be seen that the Company still cherished the hope that something might be made out of their claim. How this was to be done is not apparent. No doubt the Journal alluded to is still in existence. If it could be found the after history of the company could be cleared up. But where shall we look for it?

Although the following original document has no relation to the preceding paper, it is, nevertheless, historically valuable as throwing a side light on the Indian trade at that time. It is, accordingly, appended:

“To George Crogan Esqr. Deputy to the Honorable Sir William Johnston, Baronet, Sole Agent and Superintendent of Indian Affairs in the Northern district of North America &c &c &c.

“The Petition of the Indian Traders of
Pittsburg humbly sheweth—

“That Your Petitioners having agreeable to the Directions of the Board of Trade taken out Licenses to Trade at this place and furnished themselves with large Cargoes for that purpose in Expectation that the Trade with the Neighbouring Indians should Center here, but to their great Disappointment find the Trade much Decayed of late, Owing to a number of People who go into the Indian Country without any Lawfull authority or Permission, and there inveigle and no doubt Impose on the Indians to the great Detriment of the fair Trader, More particularly at Redstone Creek, where a Number of Lawless persons have lately forced a settlement and opened a Trade at one-half the Rates agreed upon by the Commissary of Indian affairs and the Chiefs of the Indian Tribes at this Post. Your Petitioners are informed by a Creditable author that these people are solely under the Directions of Col. Crisip (Cresap), who makes a practice of Inviting Indians to different parts of the Country and Treating with them, Inviting and encouraging them to Trade with these Unlicensed People, it is very well known that the Murder of Capt. John Peters, a Delaware Chief, was entirely owing to the Machinations of the same Col. Crisip.

“Your Petitioners fearing a total Stagnation of Trade and many other bad Consequences may attend such practices pray that you would Use your Influence with his Excellency, the Honorable Major General Thomas Gage and the Honorable Sir William Johnston, Baronet, to put a stop to such practices for the future, and your

Petitioner as in Duty bound will ever
pray &c.

“For Baynton, Wharton & Morgan,

“JOHN CAMPBELL,

“JOS. SPEAR,

“———— SMITH,

“JAS. MILLIGAN,

“DANIEL ELLIOT,

“ALEX. LOWRY.

“The Petition of the Indian Traders of
Pittsburg to George Croghan, Esq.,
The 18 Dec. 1767.”

Author: Diffenderffer, Frank Ried, 1833-1921.

Title: Indian trader troubles / by F. R. Diffenderffer, Litt.D.

Primary Material: Book

Subject(s): Johnson, William, 1715-1774.
Indians of North America.
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United States--History--French and Indian War, 1755-1763.

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