

Schoncetady 26th May 1780

Dear Sir

These few lines will Inform you of the Mallencolly Afair in Tryon County as to the Afair of wemps Going off. You undoutly have heard —

Sir John in person with Betwen 4 or 5 Hundred men by all Acc^{ts} must landed at Crownpint in Vesshels marched throw the Country & a Reived upon the Boarders of Johnstown on the 21st: Instant being Sunday unknowing to Any friends to his Country and Same night marched down to the River in different party^s & on the Break of the day Begun at Jacob Butmans¹ to Burn & destroy & Continue to Anthoney Nose at Ackers House² Left none But the friend^s to them on Trips Hills Peter Conine³ & Col Vischer was Got out by a person of ours & Major Fondas Barn the Church & Minnesters house which wer perticuley order^d not to be burnt the whole was in Flams in a fuw hours such an other Seen never was beheld the Cry of weoman & Children Burning destroying & Killing of Cattle tho they have not hurt any weomen or Children altho they had it in their power — After finishing his most Cruely Piece of Business he Return^d to the Hall & in the Common & then about 3 oClock in the Afternoon ware he stayed Sun about an hour High March^d that Eveing About two miles & Incamp^d the day following A Great Number of Disfacted Came too him they are Computed between 2 & 3 hundred the whole of his Tennants all his Black^s both

Turnover

them that was Sold & unsold — The Number Killed is 10: Amongst them the wordey mr

¹ During the Revolutionary War a Jacob Putman possessed 96 acres of land in the John Abale - Abenezzer Wilson Patent dated October 18th, 1708 in *Cognawaga Town* near the base of Trips Hill (Gerrit Y. Lansing Papers, New York State Library, Manuscript Collection #KT13324, [hereafter GYLP], Box 8 Folder 10).

² An Ab' Ecker's house and barn were located on the eastern border of Lot 9 of the James Alexander - Abraham Gouverneur Patent just to the south of the Stone Arabia Road (Christopher Yates Papers Box 6), while the house of Johannis Acker was located nearly opposite Abraham Acker's near the west border of Lot 9 of the James Alexander - Abraham Gouverneur Patent (Van Slyck Patent Map, New York State Archives Collection #AO273, Portfolio E - Map #872).

³ Sergeant Abraham Conyne of Captain John Fisher's Company of the Mohawk District Regiment, born circa 1763, was captured by Sir John's raiders, but escaped while en route to Canada (Abraham Conyne, RWPA #R2245).

D Fonda⁴ the old Gentlemen Henry Hansen John & Haramanus Fischer⁵ & the Col. Tomhack^d & Sclup^d & in Town with us tho I Blieve he will Recover behav^d well the 3 Brothers faught them at their Mothers on the Lofth of the house the Indians brok the door upon them & they Retreat with his Good Mother who Rec^d a Blow of a Tom hack but will do well & 2 Sister^s —

Like wise with them Got off save they Cryed to Fisher if he would Surrender he would have Quarter But as he New or at least Expect his faith he was determent to hold it out But ~~only~~ un Luckley 2 of his Brother fell — The Number Presiners is Some thing uncertain between 15 & 20⁶ IBleiv Amongst them Adam Fonda 2 Sons of H. Hansen⁷ J Simmons Haramanus V Derwellegen,⁸ wile they were in Camped ~~at~~ about 4 Miles from the Hall A thusday being the 23^d

⁴ Douw Fonda lived upon Lot 2 of the Edward Collins or Caughnawaga Patent (S. L. Frey Papers, NYSL Mss #SC15705). He was the father of Major Jellis Fonda. A road ran from his house to the Dutch Reformed Church of Caughnawaga (Montgomery County Wills 1:59).

⁵ The gravestones of all three of the Fisher brothers were originally located on the post-Revolutionary War Fisher Estate known as “Danaschohare” on modern-day Mohawk Drive (Old NYS Route 5S). The Colonel’s stone, and his wife’s, have been moved to the Fonda Village Cemetery. Assuming that John & Harmanus Fisher were buried on the farm where they were killed, the site of this attack would be in the Henry Hansen Patent.

⁶ The Public Papers of George Clinton, Volume 6, page 723 only Adam Fonda, Fredrick Sammons, Hermanus Terwilliger, Benjamin Deline, Joseph Meyers, Barent Hanson, and Samuel Kennedy amongst those taken on 22 May 1780.

⁷ During the American Revolution John Hanson he possessed a farm of 100 acres in the Henry Hansen Patent, while a Nicholas Hansen possessed a farm of 150 acres of land in the Henry Hansen Patent (Garret Y. Lansing Papers 9:1). The Henry Hansen Patent was located to the west of the mouth of the Schoharie Creek on the north-side of the Mohawk River and was bordered by the river on the south, the Edward Collins Patent on the west, the Butlersbury Patent on the north, and the John Abale Patent on the east.

⁸ Hermanus Terweliger [?] of Captain Jellis Fonda’s Company of Associated Exempts (Revolutionary War Rolls M246).

*he Sent back John Fonda⁹ Simson Simmon^s the Elder¹⁰, & Haraman Smith¹¹ on Some Seort of promise not to take up Arms & to protect the disefected weomen & C that were Yet in Tryon County the Same day Ab^r Vader¹² Came home with A Certificate that he was Exchange for^d Liu^t Singlton¹³ takeing in Herkermans Battle¹⁴ he Stile^s him self which Vader Schoued me Lieu^t Col. Of the King^s Royal York Regt Commanding By what thoes Gentlemen that have been with him say there is 200 Regulars with him the Rest Savages &c &c wemp¹⁵ Nor his party ware not with him But Jacob Bastiteo & Rob Miller both from this ware Seen — Sir John Semes to have Express him he had not meant that M^r Fonda shoud have been Kill^d he would have spoke^d him self to the old Gentlemen & advis^d him to go A Cross the River But the old Gentlemen did not Chused So much for doing Good to his father & him when his father Came poor in the Country¹⁶
I must Quit the affair is too Mallacolty to Continue a little more Sir John has not*

⁹ A son of Douw Fonda and brother of Major Jellis Fonda.

¹⁰ During the Revolutionary War Thomas and Fredrick Sammons, sons of Sampson Sammons each possessed a 110 acres farm in Lot 1 of the James Alexander - Abraham Gouverneur Patent (GYLP, Box 8 Folder 10).

¹¹ During the Revolutionary War a Hermanus Smith possessed 150 acres of land in Lot 3 of the James Alexander - Abraham Gouverneur Patent (GYLP, Box 8 Folder 10).

¹² During the Revolutionary War he possessed 150 acres of land in Lot 2 of the Abraham Gouverneur Patent (GYLP, Box 8 Folder 10).

¹³ Lieutenant George Singleton of Captain Stephen Watts' Company of the Kings Royal Regiment taken in Lieutenant Colonel Marinus Willett's delayed sortie from Fort Stanwix on August 6th, 1780.

¹⁴ The Battle of Oriskany, fought on the August 6th, 1780.

¹⁵ Captain Andreas Wemple who deserted from the Mohawk District Regiment of Tryon County Militia on May 14, 1780 [he is referred to as Andrew Wemp in Christopher P. Yates' May 15, 1780 letter to Messrs Glen & Cuyler; Henry Glen Papers, NYSHA]. During the American Revolution he possessed of the remainder of a 75 acre tract of land in Lot 8 of the Butlersbury Patent which was not occupied by Myndert W. Quackinboss, as well as Lot 18 of the Butlersbury Patent which was forfeited to the State of New York upon Colonel John Butler being found guilty of being loyal to the British Crown (New York State Archives Collection #AO200, Volume 47, Box 52, Item 12; The Christopher Yates Papers, Bird Library of Syracuse University; Henry Glen Papers, NYSHA).

¹⁶ See Addendum A.

*been properly heard of Since Vader which was a thusday Near Every 4 Mile^s from the hall Col V
Schaick with the Militia at F Hunter Col Lewis¹⁷ has been their this moment Comes down
Nothing forther Expect^d that by talking in Sir John^s Camp that Brant will brake out at Bowman^s
Creek or perhaps Schoharie by the way of Nunondellay¹⁸ Some Rep [document torn] Last Night
from Alb^y that a french fleet at Sanday hooch it wants Comfermation — Bob Adam¹⁹ was with
him at the hall he sent for him to the Town & is now in this Town they Say I have not Seen him
The Town Look Sorrow in Seeing so many poor weomen & Children in the Street*

I am

Your Very humble Serv^t

H Glen

To

Col. Ch^s Yates

[endorsement on reverse]

Or Mr Glens

Letter

May 26th 1780

Schenectady

¹⁷ This a reference to Lewis Atayataghronghta who also known as *Colonel Luie*, *Atyatoghharongevia*, and *Lewis Cook* (Nicholas Cusick, “alias Kanaghtjoh”, RWPA #S18788). Colonel Lewis was by birth a Mohawk Indian of the Caughnawaga Clan per a letter from Philip Schuyler to Henry Laurens in Congress dated March 15, 1778 (Continental Congress Papers, M247, Roll 173: 286).

¹⁸ Unadilla?

¹⁹ See Addendum B.

Addendum A

The unfiled partial rough draft of a Revolutionary War Pension Application for Douw Fonda, a son of Major Jellis Fonda, and grandson of Douw Fonda, sheds light on the provincial escape of Mrs. Jellis Fonda during the raid. It also, however in the excerpts which follows, opens up the question: Did Major Jellis Fonda have advanced knowledge of Sir John Johnson's Raid on the Caughnawaga Settlement?

His father Jellis Fonda in the month of May of 1780 ~~at~~ a member of the Senate of this State, which was then in session at Poughkeepsie, he was requested by his said father to proceed to Caughnawaga where his mother then was to ~~bring~~ accompany her to Schenectady. This was in consequence of intelligence received that ~~enemy~~ Indians & Tories under the command of Sir John Johnson meditated an attack upon the settlements at Caughnawaga. He had been there only two or three days when the enemy actually descent upon this place — murdered his grandfather a man near 80 years of age, besides 8 or 9 other inhabitants of this neighborhood. He then armed himself for the purpose of joining the American forces that ~~were expected to~~ rendezvous at a stockade fort in the vicinity and expected his mother to follow him and remain in the fort. Upon arriving at the said stockade fort, he found that the troops had vacated the fort, after which he then went back ~~to~~ after his other and aided her in crossing ~~the~~ over to ~~the~~ south side of the Mohawk river. While crossing they were fired upon by the enemy and within an hour after, ~~his~~ the enemy destroyed his father's mansion house with all its contents (which he could get no opportunity to take away) and carried off ~~at~~ several of his father's slaves & cattle to Canada. In the month of in the same year the said Sir John Johnson & Colonel John Butler & Brandt the Indian Chief who had command of the British, Tories, and the Indians, burnt and destroyed other & more valuable dwellings outhouses &c belonging to his father, about 8 miles above Caughnawaga at a place called the Nose, and Carried off more of his slaves horses Cattle &c The of the said losses sustained by his said father have never yet been made up to his said father or himself. They were estimated at Eleven Thousand two Hundred & fifty Dollars, ~~with~~ a certificate of which estimate can be produced signed by Robert Yates Esq. late Chief Justice of this State. . . . (Fonda Family Papers NYSL SC7026, Box 4 Folder 1).

Addendum B

Robert Adams was a storekeeper, associate, and friend of Sir William Johnson. Based upon the following passage in the will of Sir William Johnson, Adams is believed to have lived neared the Johnson Hall on the Kingsborough Patent (Sir William Johnson Papers Volume 12

page 1072):

To my faithful friend Robert Adems Esqr. of Johnstown, The dwelling House, other Buildings & the Lot of one Acre whereon he now lives. The Potash Laboratory & one Acre of Land with it, also the Farm which he holds by Deed from me. All free from rent during his natural life — Except the quit Rent.

Francis Rawworth appeared before the Commissioners for the Detecting and Defeating Conspiracies (Volume 2, page 451) and stated that he did see Robert at Johnstown when Caughnawaga was burnt by Sir John Johnson's raiders, instead Rawworth stated that he understood that Adams had been taken captive by Sir John's men and conveyed to Johnson Hall to meet with Sir John. Adams was released from confinement by the Commissioners on a bond of £400 on August 15, 1780 (page 493).