

# Not Merely Overrun but Destroyed

## The Sullivan Expedition Against the Iroquois Indians, 1779

The army marched at 8 o'clock, . . . to a Very Pretty Town Called Canandaigua, Consisting of about 30 Houses, Much better built Then any that I have seen before, Near this town Discover'd Large fields of Corn, near which we Incamp'd—Several small partys were Ordered out to Destroy the Corn this afternoon— September 10, 1779

...the whole party from the monkey to the rat, had armed themselves with almost every species of the vegetable creation, each man with three pompions on his bayonet and staggering under the weight of a bosom filled with corn and beans...he broke out "You d\_d unmmilitary set of rascals! What, are you going to storm a town with pompions!... September 7, 1779

During the American Revolutionary conflict, the Iroquois Indians gave divided military support to American colonists and the British loyalists. As a result General George Washington ordered General John Sullivan in May 1779 to invade Iroquois Country, destroy Indian villages, and burn all food crops or potential resources for Indian war parties or communities. Sullivan's troops destroyed nearly 60 Indian villages from June through October 1779. Behind him, he left not only a path of physical destruction but also a decimation of Native American communities and cultural systems that can be argued to be systematic genocide.

This map represents where Sullivan's main army marched and the villages and places that it decimated in the summer of 1779. The troops began their march in Easton, Pennsylvania and follow the North Branch of the Susquehanna River up to the Finger Lakes area in present-day New York. Journal entries of military officers in Sullivan's army embedded along the war path tell narratives of the journey and shed light on the perspectives of the men during the American Revolutionary Era. Through the journal entries, of Sullivan's warpath, and the inclusion of quotations, this map provides insight into the great devastation of Iroquois country and the minds of the men who ravaged it.

This afternoon a Small Party of Indian's fired on some of our Men who were without the Guards after some Horses and Cattle, Kill'd and Sculped oneman and Wounded another, a Party was sent out in pursuit of them but Could not come up with them— September 15, 1779

The army then marched to the castle, called Gohseolahulee... Here appeared the heathenish custom of offering sacrifices. Two dogs were found suspended on a pole, which signified that evil spirit... September 13, 1779

Marched about 8 o'clock, and kept our order until arriving at a mountain, where we were obliged to deviate...Unfortunately the river rose this day four feet, and prevented our crossing it...the most disagreeable day's march since we left Wyoming... August 27, 1779

At two o'clock we set off for Tioga, after burning the town and destroying all the corn on our way... Arrived at Tioga at 8 o'clock, much fatigued, having marched nearly 40 miles and had no sleep for 36 hours. August 13, 1779

...About Sun rise the Genl gave orders for the Town to be illuminated—& accordingly we had a glorious Bonfire of upwards of 30 buildings at once; a melancholy & desperate Spectacle to the Savages many of whom must have beheld it from a neighboring hill, near which we found a party of them had encamped last night... August 12, 1779

...the expedition ended; having...destroying their whole country...the nests are destroyed, but the birds are still on the wing. September 30, 1779

Arrived at Wyoming in High Spirits During the Whole of the Survear Campaign our Loss in Kill'd, Died, Wounds & Sickness Did not Exceed fifty men— October 7, 1779

...we began to assen'd the Mountain that covered the Enemy's left... at the same Instant that they began to fire on us, they rais'd the Indian Yell, or war hoop the Riflemen kept up a Scattering fire while we form'd the line of Battle which was dun Exceeding quick—we then advanced Rapped with fix'd Bayonets with out firing a Gun till we had gained the Summit of the Hill... August 29, 1779

[we] encamp'd in an old Field, near the Mouth of a Small river that falls here into the Susquehanna call'd Tunckhannuck—Nothing remarkable happened thro this days march—the Deer seem'd to be plenty on this ground—a large Fawn that lay Sulking in the Bushes alarm'd with the noise of the Troops... August 3, 1779

.. About 12 oClock we entered the Town of Wyoming, which exhibits a melancholy scene of desolation, in ruin'd Houses, wasted fields & Fatherless Children & Widows. These unhappy people...were attacked by a merciless band of savages, led on by a more savage Tory, the Unnatural monster Butler... June 23, 1779

.. we came through a narrow pass of the blue mountain, call'd the Wind-gap, a passage apparently designed by Nature for a Communication... The Land thro this days march is mountainous, rocky, barren, & uninhabitable; but well water'd and the Streams aboundjng with Trouts— June 19, 1779

### Major Jeremiah Fogg

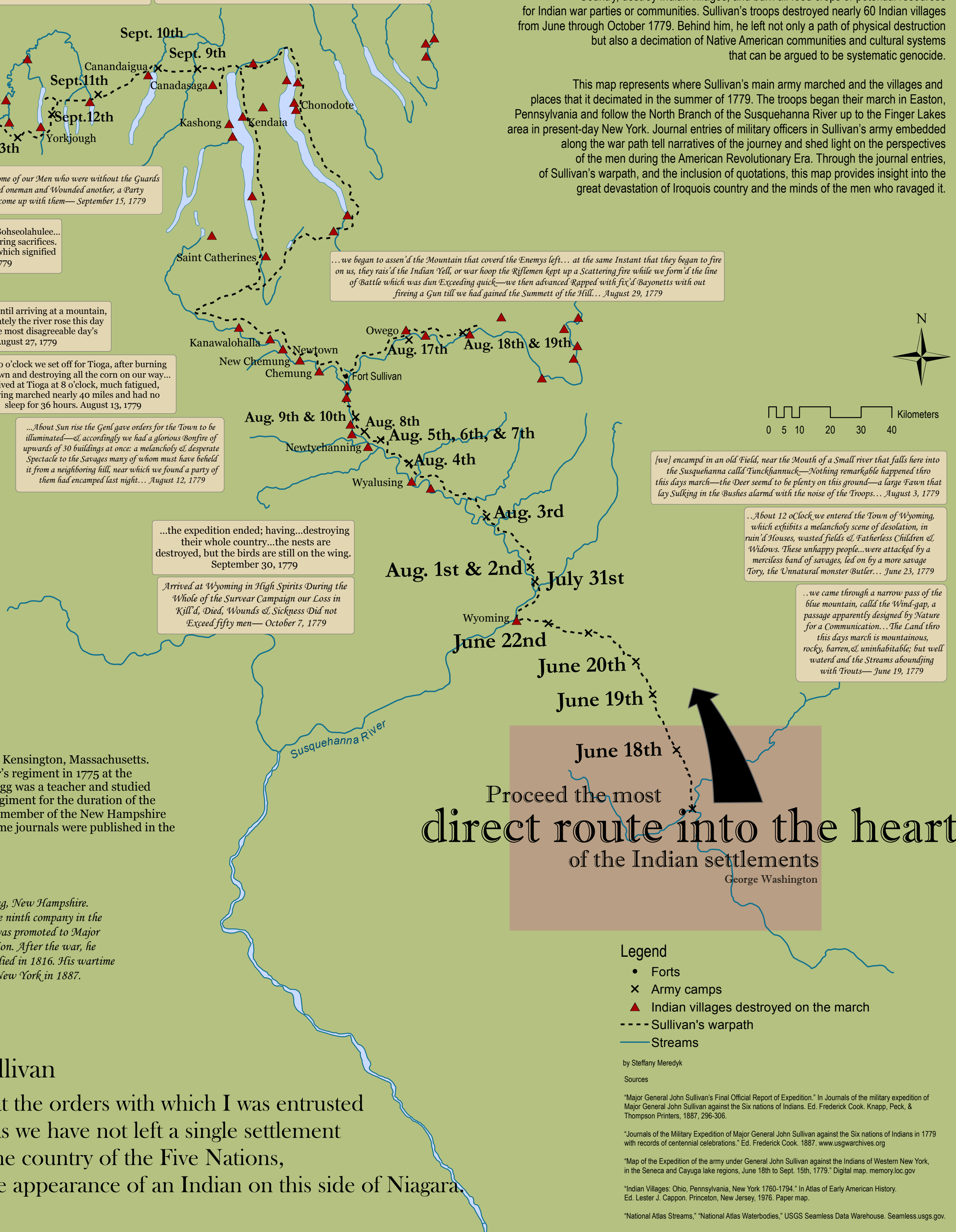
Jeremiah Fogg was born in 1749 in Kensington, Massachusetts. Before joining Colonel Enoch Poor's regiment in 1775 at the outbreak of wartime hostilities, Fogg was a teacher and studied law. He served in Colonel Poor's regiment for the duration of the war. After his service, he became a member of the New Hampshire senate and died in 1808. His wartime journals were published in the News Letter Press in 1879.

### Captain James Norris

James Norris was born in 1739 in Epping, New Hampshire. He joined the military as a captain of the ninth company in the Second New Hampshire Regiment. He was promoted to Major during his service in Sullivan's Expedition. After the war, he married and moved to Maine, where he died in 1816. His wartime journals were published by the state of New York in 1887.

### General John Sullivan

...I flatter myself that the orders with which I was entrusted are fully executed, as we have not left a single settlement or field of corn in the country of the Five Nations, nor is there even the appearance of an Indian on this side of Niagara.



#### Legend

- Forts
- x Army camps
- ▲ Indian villages destroyed on the march
- Sullivan's warpath
- Streams

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Sources

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"Map of the Expedition of the army under General John Sullivan against the Indians of Western New York, in the Seneca and Cayuga lake regions, June 18th to Sept. 15th, 1779." Digital map. [memory.loc.gov](http://memory.loc.gov)

"Indian Villages: Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York 1760-1794." In *Atlas of Early American History*. Ed. Lester J. Cappon. Princeton, New Jersey, 1976. Paper map.

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