The Sullivan Expedition Against the Iroquois Indians, 1779

Major Jeremiah Fogg

Jeremiah Fogg was born in 1749 in Kensington, Massachusetts. Before joining Colonel Emoch 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 New Letters 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 minuteman 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.

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 eastern 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 War. 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 raged it.

Not Merely Overrun but Destroyed

Legend

- Forts
- Army camps
- Indian villages destroyed on the march
- Sullivan’s warpath
- Streams

by Martha Manville

Sources


