



The French and Indian War in Pennsylvania

William Trent's Journal, 1763

During the summer of 1763, while stationed at Fort Pitt, William Trent kept a journal and orderly book, which together present one of the most detailed and complete accounts of the Indian siege on the British settlements.

May 29

At Break of day this Morning three Men came in from Col. Claphams who was settled at the Oswegly Old Town about 25 Miles from here, on the Youghyogane River, with an account that Col. Clapham, with one of his Men, two women and a child were Merdered by Wolfe and some other Delaware Indians, about two o'Clock the day before. The 27th Wolfe with some others robed one Mr. Coleman on the Road between this and Ligonier of upwards of £50— The women that were killed at Col. Claphams, were treated in such a brutal manner that Decency forbids the Mentioning. This Evening we had two Soldiers killed and scalped at the Sawmill.

June 1

Two Men who were sent of Express last Night to Venango returned being fired on at Shanopins Town and one of them wounded in the leg. . . .

June 5

2 o'Clock at Night one Benjamin Sutton came in who says he left Redstone two days ago and found that place evacuated and saw a number of Shoe Tracks going towards Fort Cumberland which he supposes was the Garrison: that there was with him there a White Man named Hicks and an Indian names Recois who would have burnt the Fort had he not persuaded them from it, that Hicks told him that an Indian War was broke out and that he would kill the white People wherever he found them, and went with Intention to murder Madcalfs People nine Miles from here who had removed some time before, he says they intended to have taken him Prisoner but the Wind blowing hard and it growing very dark when he came nigh the Fort made for it and called the Centinel Hicks and the Indian went by in their Bark Cannoes.

June 6

Nothing Extraordinary

June 12

An Indian was discovered from the Garden, about 11 o'Clock a Party out cutting Spelts saw two Indians and fired on them, on which a number more appeared and fired on our People, who returned it an[d] some more shot being fired from the Cannon in the Fort the Indians ran off.

June 13 and 14

Nothing worth Notice.

June 15

A Party was sent out to cut Spelts and were fired on. Serjt Miller of the Militia contrary to orders with 3 others advanced to Grants Hill and just as they had gained the Summit, Miller was shot Dead, a party advancing drove the Enemy off and prevented their scalping him. Between 11 and 12 o'Clock at Night as an Express from Bedford was challenged by one of the Centinels from the Rampart the Enemy fired a number of Shotts at him and the Centinels in the Fort.

June 23

about 12 o'Clock at Night Two Delawares called for Mr. McKee and told him they wanted to speak to him in the Morning.

June 24

The Turtles Heart a principal Warrior of the Delawares and Mamaltee a Chief came within a small distance of the Fort Mr. McKee went out to them and they made a Speech letting us know that all our [?] as Ligonier was destroyed, that great numbers of Indians [were coming and] that out of regard to us, they had prevailed on 6 Nations [not to] attack us but give us time to go down the Country and they desired we would set of immediately. The Commanding Officer thanked them, let them know that we had everything we wanted, that we could defend it against all the Indians in the Woods, that we had three large Armys marching to Chastise those Indians that had struck us, told them to take care of their Women and Children, but not to tell any other Natives, they said they would go a speak to their Chiefs and come and tell us what they said, they returned and said they would hold fast of the Chain of friendship. Out of our regard to them we gave them two Blankets and a Handkerchief out of the Small Pox Hospital. I hope it will have the desired effect.