

GENEALOGICAL GLEANINGS

OF

SIGGINS

AND OTHER

PENNSYLVANIA FAMILIES

A Volume

OF

HISTORY, BIOGRAPHY

AND

COLONIAL, REVOLUTIONARY, CIVIL AND
OTHER WAR RECORDS

INCLUDING NAMES OF MANY OTHER WARREN COUNTY PIONEERS

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LIEUTENANT JOHN RANGE.

The Daughters of the American Revolution are endeavoring to place metal markers at the graves of every Revolutionary soldier in the country.

On Saturday Mr. John Siggins of Tidioute, came here and placed one of these markers at the grave of the only soldier of the Revolutionary War, buried in Riverside Cemetery (Tionesta, Pa.).

The marker bears the following inscriptions:

"John Range, 1st Lieutenant, commissioned April 5, 1778."

Mr. Siggins is a great-grandson of the deceased. The marker is about the size of a dinner plate, circular in form, and around the edge are thirteen stars representing the original thirteen states, for whose independence thousands of patriots, like Mr. Range, suffered great privations and gave up their lives, that future generations might enjoy the blessings of a free country.

Mr. S. D. Irwin furnishes the following additional particulars concerning Lieutenant Range:

For his services in the Revolution he secured a land warrant taken out in the name of his eldest son, Shallas Range. The lottery warrant for the land was number 511, dated May 15th, 1785, included 258 acres. In 1808 he examined the land with other soldiers, and in 1816, located with his family at Tionesta. He came from Adams Co., Pa.

He selected the land now occupied by Tionesta Borough, called Sa-qua-lin-get, which is interpreted "Place of Council," being just above the mouth of Tubbs Run, and running thence as declared in the final survey and patent, "by the base of Mount Ararat." This piece so selected embraced

all of the bottom land, from above Tubbs Run to the south line of what is now known as the Lawrence farm, crossing of course Tionesta creek. Although the warrant and survey was to John Range, the patent was for some reason issued to his son Shallos Range, but Shallos dying a young man and unmarried, he received the land as Shallos' heir.

John Range then did the first draining ever done on the place, and on quite an extensive scale, too; he cut a heavy ditch from a swamp which started on what is now Williams street, just below where it crosses Helen street. The head of the swamp was filled up by Jacob M. Kepler a few years ago, he graded the small bluff on the back end of his lots off and that obliterated every trace of the swamp, but the Range ditch, which extended from the swamp mentioned down the flat to the back channel, near Canfield's, is traceable in many places to this day, and but a few years ago, near the upper end of it, wild cherry trees had grown up that were about 12 to 18 inches in diameter, just back of where Harvey M. Foreman now lives. This ditch was a fine piece of engineering and cut through three small swamps and emptied their contents for the most part into the back channel of the river as stated. It is said that Lieutenant Range got some of his ideas of draining while with the Revolutionary army on duty at Yorktown, Va., where he assisted in draining the low lands and marshes about that place, when Washington's army occupied the same. It is evident no better nor easier ground could have been selected, and the lower end of this ditch is easily traced to-day, and is utilized. Range before his death divided his farm, Sa-qua-lin-get, into two nearly equal parts, by a line beginning on the river at the old red oak tree, near the Shriver place, and extending easterly to his east line on the hill. The north half went to his son John, Jr., and the lower part to his son James. James in his lifetime sold out to various parties, and some relatives, while John sold his entire part to Rev. Hezekiah May, who died possessed of the same July 4, 1843. It should here be mentioned that Lieutenant Range selected a place for his grave and that of his wife, just back of what is now F. C.

Proper's barn, on a little knoll, and in his deed to May, John Range, Jr., reserves "one rod square where the parents of first party lies buried." A barn being erected, it became an unsightly place for the burial of a revolutionary patriot and his wife, and so arrangements were made by H. M. Foreman, who had purchased a lot which included the square rod reserve, with the numerous relatives and decendants of the patriot, to purchase a beautiful lot on a knoll in Riverside Cemetery, and their dust was removed there at the expense of Mr. Foreman, with the consent of the wide circle of relatives. John Range in his early days, was a miller near Gettysburg, Adams Co., Pa., and John and William P. Siggins, two of his descendants, went on a pilgrimage to the mill of their eminent ancestor, and it was with great joy that they found old settlers who had traditions of him, but what delighted them more was to find the old mill itself with his name cut in the stone undoubtedly by his own hand.

John Range served through the great struggle for independence, was commissioned First Lieutenant of 5th company of 4th battalion, York County, Pa., militia, April 5th, 1778. He is justly called the first white settler east of the Allegheny in the present bounds of Forest County, Pa. He first came out prospecting to view this land, establishing a farm at what is now Tionesta, this was in the year 1816. He was a native of Pennsylvania; after the war was over he settled in Adams County, where being successful in his business he acquired considerable property.

In Hon. S. D. Irvin's History of Forest County, he says: "Jacob Shriner says that Lieut. John Range was born in the eastern part of Pennsylvania, in 1746, and died in Tionesta in 1826, aged 80 years." You will find reference in the Pennsylvania Archives, Second Series, Volume 14, page 513.

Copy of a Deed From Lieut. John Range.

Dated Dec. 13, 1805.

"John Range and Mandlin (Shallos) his wife of Mount

Pleasant Township in the county of Adams, Pa., to Frederick Myers, Sr., of Berwick Township, Adams Co., Pa., 190 acres & 83 perches and all of Pattennt dated Jan 22, 1767 Granted by Thomas Penn and Richard Penn Esqra, Proprietors and Governors in Chief of the Province of Pennsylvania to Theobalt Shallos & his heirs and Assigns. Patent recorded in the office for Recording of deeds for the City and County of Philadelphia, in Patent Book, A. D. Vol & Page 169 Reference thereto being had may more full appear and the said Theobalt Shallos by his last will and testament being dated the 5th day of Sept 1788, did give and bequeathe the same to Mandlin party hereto in the words following "Viz" Also I leave and bequeathe unto my daughter Mandlin, intermarried with John Range my Plantation that I live on, and the mill on said place to her, her Heirs and assigns for ever, the said last will and Testament remaining in the Registers office in York, for the County of York, may more at large appear, together with all and singular the Houses out houses buildings barns stables Gardens Orchards Medow ways woods water, Water courses Mills Mill Work and improvements rights liberties privileges lights Easments improvements hariditments and appertances whatsoever to the said tract of land belonging or in any wise appertaining and the revisions and remainders rents issues and profits thereof."

(Signed) John Range.

her
Mandlin—X—Range.
mark

Witness in presence of)

Peter Marshall.)

George Kuhn.) Acknowledged Dec 13th, 1805.

This land is located on Little Consewago Creek near New Oxford, Adams County, Pa., so says John Siggins, who visited the property with his brother, William P. Siggins, about 1900.

The old Grist Mill was built by Theobalt Shallos in 1747.

("Tha. Frank en Taller)
(1747 Mill Pild bei)
(Deobalt Sholas.")

The above is a copy of the inscription that I found cut in large letters in a large stone placed over the main entrance to the Mill. The Mill was originally built of stone, but had burned down in Sept., 1888, and was rebuilt in Oct., 1888, and the old stone tablet had been replaced over the door of the rebuilt Mill as the fire had not injured the inscription. On the corner stone of the old Saw-Mill I found this date and letters: "1795. I. R." On the one hundredth anniversary of the settlement of Tionesta the Range family held a Reunion, at which time a bronze tablet to the memory of John Range was dedicated.