

THOMPSON MAXWELL'S NARRATIVE — 1760-1763.¹

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Three companies of Rangers were ordered to be enlisted for the war. I joined again [fall of 1760] with Capt. Brewer. Capts. Stark & M'Millan formed our corps, of about 150 men. We were then joined by 800 Regulars under Maj. [Henry] Gladwin, & ordered to march up the River & Lakes

¹Thompson Maxwell was the son of Hugh, who came from Ireland in 1732 and settled at Bedford, Mass., where he lived until his death, at the age of sixty years, March 19, 1759. Thompson's mother died in January, 1769, aged eighty-one years, leaving a family of five sons and two daughters. Thompson was the youngest, being born Sept. 11, 1742. He served as a volunteer, under Capt. Nehemiah Lovewell, of Dunstable, N. H., in the campaign against the French and Indians, in 1757, helping scour the country between Concord, N. H., and Fitchburg, Mass. He also served under Lovewell in the campaign of 1758, his company being attached to Robert Rogers's rangers. He continued as one of Rogers's corps, through the campaigns of 1759 and 1760, and was present at the fall of Montreal, September 8th of the latter year. Four days after the capitulation, Rogers was ordered by Gen. Sir Jeffrey Amherst "to ascend the lakes with a detachment of rangers, and take possession, in the name of his Britannic Majesty, of Detroit, Michilimackinac, and other western posts included in the capitulation." — (Parkman's *Pontiac*, 6th ed., i, p. 164 et seq.) Maxwell re-enlisted for the war, and accompanied the rangers to the Northwest, in Captain Brewer's company. He arrived at Michilimackinac in October, 1761. In May, 1762, he went upon the first voyage ever made through Lake Superior under the English flag, being one of a military escort sent with a party of traders to the Grand Portage, at the west end of the lake; — see *ante*, p. 123, note 4. In September, 1762, Maxwell went to Detroit. In the spring of 1763, he was on an expedition through Lake Michigan, to Chicago; and afterwards, in the same year, was one of a party sent to reconnoiter a course by land from Detroit to Chicago. He remained at Detroit until the close of the Pontiac war, being one of the participants in Dalzell's fight at Bloody Run. Maxwell was discharged in October, 1763, after six years' hard service, although he was but twenty-one years of age. He married Sibyl Wyman, five years his senior, and she left him, after thirty-eight years of happy union, four sons and a daughter.