

1777: WISCONSIN INDIANS IN BURGOYNE'S CAMPAIGN

[Summary of documents published in previous volumes of this series.]

[In the spring of 1777 Langlade was commissioned by Captain De Peyster to secure Indian auxiliaries for the Canadian campaign. Accordingly, in April he began his operations, and June 4 was at Mackinac with sixty Indians. The next day he left for Canada, some Menominee deserting before the start. The Potawatomi of St. Josephs arrived later, and were sent on under command of Louis Chevalier. Charles Gautier arrived still later, with a force of Sauk and Foxes. He reported uneasiness on the Mississippi, due to the intrigues of the Spaniards.⁷⁶

By July 14 Langlade had reported to Carleton at Quebec,⁷⁷ and was sent on to join Burgoyne at Lake Champlain. He reached the army while it lay at Skenesborough, and advanced with the troops to Fort Edward. Burgoyne's policy did not please his Indian auxiliaries, for he attempted to restrain their

tion he was a law-student at Albany, being described as a clever and aristocratic youth. In 1775 he accompanied Guy Johnson to Canada, and in the autumn of that year secured a commission as ensign in the 8th infantry. Probably he participated in the affair of the Cedars (April 19, 1776). He was in service at Niagara late in this year, as the present document proves. In 1777 he joined St. Leger's Mohawk valley campaign, and was captured at a secret meeting of Loyalists, tried as a spy, and condemned to execution. At the intercession of some American officers, however, he was saved, but kept in close confinement at Albany. In the spring of 1778 he made his escape, and it is said planned the raid on Cherry Valley (1778) in retaliation for his imprisonment. His rank is a matter of dispute. His signature here would indicate "captain;" but we cannot discover that he was ever a captain in the regular army, although he may have been such in his father's company of rangers; indeed, he is also occasionally spoken of as "major." He was killed in 1781, on the retreat from a Mohawk valley raid.—Ed.

⁷⁶ For these documents see *Wis. Hist. Colls.*, vii, pp. 405-407; viii, p. 220; xii, pp. 44-46.—Ed.

⁷⁷ *Ibid.*, p. 46.—Ed.