

county. At the organization of the Northumberland county militia in January and February, 1776, James Murray was captain of the Seventh company of the Second battalion (Colonel James Potter's) and William Murray was captain of the Fifth company of the Third battalion (Colonel William Plunket's), in which the lieutenant colonel was James Murray. Subsequently James Murray became colonel (succeeding Colonel Plunket probably, as the latter was not in entire sympathy with the American cause after the declaration of independence); he was first called into active service in the winter of 1776-77, and on the 11th of November, 1777, marched with the Northumberland county militia to Philadelphia. His regiment was attached to General James Potter's brigade and participated in the movements in Pennsylvania and New Jersey in 1776-78.

A paper dated May 1, 1778, is on record in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, giving the names of the captains and number of men in the rank and file of the Second battalion of the Northumberland county militia commanded by Colonel James Murray, a copy of which will be found in Chapter III. p. 119. James McMahan, one of the captains of this regiment and subsequently known as Major McMahan, was married to a sister of Colonel Murray. There are but few of Colonel Murray's descendants now living in the county.

John Murray, one of the three brothers first mentioned, had one son, Thomas, and three daughters: Jane, married to John McMahan; Ann, married to John Reznor, and Mary, unmarried. The son was known as Thomas Murray, Jr., to distinguish him from another of the same name a few years his senior. Thomas Murray, Jr. was a member of the House of Representatives in 1813, and in 1814 was elected to the Senate. In 1820 he was elected a member of the XVIIth Congress and served during the years 1821 and 1822, being the immediate successor of John Murray previously mentioned. On account of increasing ill health he declined a renomination, and died on the 25th of August, 1823. He was married to Charity Arbour, who in her early life had some thrilling experiences with the Indians and had frequently been obliged to fly to Fort Augusta for protection. Their children were Mary; John F.; William; Hannah; Joseph Arbour; Nancy; James; Thomas, and Margaret. Thomas was born, January 22, 1809, was educated at the Milton Academy under Dr. David Kirkpatrick, studied medicine under Dr. James S. Dougal, of Milton, and Dr. Thomas Van Valzah, of Lewisburg, was graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1833, and subsequently practiced in Westmoreland and Indiana counties. He retired from the practice of medicine a few years ago and has since lived at Beaver, Pennsylvania.

William Murray was born, August 26, 1796; he was married to Nancy Gray Wilson, of Lewisburg, resided for a time at Washingtonville, Montour county, removed from there to Lewisburg and subsequently to Lancaster, Pennsylvania, where he died, June 13, 1886. William and Nancy G. Mur-

ray had three children: Eliza N., who was married to James Black, of Lancaster; Thomas, who died in early life, and Samuel Wilson, who is at present a resident of Milton.

THE McMAHAN FAMILY of Northumberland county are descended from John and Margaret McMahan, natives of the North of Ireland, who immigrated to Pennsylvania about 1744 and settled in Sherman's valley, Cumberland county. They had one son, James, born to them in Ireland, and two sons and six daughters were born after coming to their new home in the wilds of Pennsylvania. Their names were: John; Benjamin; Rachel; Sarah; Elizabeth; Agnes; Margaret, and Mary. The father followed farming in Cumberland county until his death in 1767. Two years later, in 1769, James McMahan, in company with James, William, and John Murray, Johnson Cheney, Thomas Hewitt, and William Fisher paid a visit to the West Branch valley for the purpose of seeing the country and inspecting the lands which had been thrown open for settlement the previous year. They were so well pleased with the country that all decided to make it their future home, which purpose they afterwards carried into effect. James McMahan selected and purchased three hundred acres of land on Chillisquaque creek, and in 1771 located permanently upon his purchase. His wife, Mary, was a sister of Colonel James Murray, and became the mother of seven sons and one daughter: John; Jane; James; William; Thomas; Robert; Benjamin, and Samuel. Soon after he had effected a settlement, his brothers, John and Benjamin, and also his mother, followed him to this valley. John bought land about one mile east of James, a part of which farm is still the home of one of his grandsons. Benjamin subsequently moved to Huntingdon county, where many of his descendants now live. John McMahan married Jane, daughter of John Murray, and sister of Thomas Murray, Jr., who bore him nine children: James; Peggy; John; Hannah; Benjamin; Thomas; Polly; William, and Samuel. Mrs. Margaret McMahan also took up her abode on Chillisquaque creek, and a few years after coming she was drowned while crossing that stream in a wagon.

Whether the McMahans were soldiers from choice or from necessity we know not, but one thing is certain, as soldiers they did their duty and did it well. Major James McMahan, as he was familiarly known, got his first taste of war when a lad of eighteen, being fired upon by a band of Indians on the bank of the Juniata river and wounded in the left shoulder. He afterwards served as first sergeant in the Second battalion of Pennsylvania troops in the French and Indian war. He held a captain's commission in the Revolutionary war, and at the close of the Revolution he was promoted to major. At one time he had command of a small stockade fort, built on his own farm on the bank of Chillisquaque creek for the protection of the settlement against roving bands of Indians. During this period, while in the woods hunting stock, Major McMahan was taken prisoner by an Indian and a white man painted.

But being left alone with the Indian he brained the savage with the butt of his gun, made his escape, and returned to the fort in safety. He went with Captain Boone's company to the relief of Fort Freeland, but it had surrendered before their arrival. In short, both James and John McMahan did admirable service in defense of Northumberland county, as well as elsewhere, throughout the struggle for American liberty, and at its close they retired to their farms, upon which the remaining years of their lives were spent. They were among the founders of Chillisquaque Presbyterian church, and were worthy men and good citizens. John McMahan, eldest son of Major McMahan, was a colonel in the war of 1812, while James, the second son, was a major in the same war, both serving with credit along the Niagara river. Colonel McMahan was complimented by General Scott as one of the bravest and most efficient officers in his command.

JAMES MONTGOMERY immigrated from Scotland to this country, and procured a tract of land in Montour county, where he lived and died. He was one of the founders of the Chillisquaque Presbyterian church.

H. R. MONTGOMERY was born in Montour county, Pennsylvania, in 1819, a son of James Montgomery. He married Sarah Mull, a native of Berks county, and afterwards located where his son D. M. now resides. He served as justice of the peace twenty-five or thirty years in Montour county, also served as overseer of the poor of Chillisquaque township. He was a member of the Presbyterian church, and politically a Democrat. He died in 1881; his wife still survives him. They reared nine children: James, a physician of Buckhorn, Columbia county, Pennsylvania; John S.; Mary, Mrs. C. H. Marsh; Sarah A., Mrs. William Eckman, of Sunbury; D. M.; William, a farmer of Chillisquaque township; H. B.; Clara B., and Alice Jane.

JOHN S. MONTGOMERY was born in Chillisquaque township, August 21, 1859. He received his education at the Pottsgrove Academy, learned telegraphy, and was in the employ of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company five years at Danville. In 1888 he established his present mercantile business. He is a member of the Presbyterian church, and politically a Democrat.

D. M. MONTGOMERY, of the firm of J. S. Montgomery & Company, merchants, was born in Chillisquaque township, September 27, 1865, son of H. R. and Sarah (Mull) Montgomery. He was educated at the Pottsgrove Academy, and afterward learned telegraphy, which occupation he followed several years. In 1889 he became a member of the present firm. He is a member of Corona Lodge, I. O. O. F., of Conemaugh, and Brownfield Lodge, R. of P., a member of the Presbyterian church, and politically a Democrat.

JACOB S. RISHEL was born in that part of Northumberland county which is now Montour, Pennsylvania, July 7, 1806, son of Jacob and Mary (Sanders) Rishel. His grandfather, Michael Rishel, was a native of Bucks county, Pennsylvania, and one of the early settlers of Northumberland coun-