

HISTORY

OF

SULLIVAN COUNTY:

EMBRACING

**AN ACCOUNT OF ITS GEOLOGY, CLIMATE, ABORIGINES, EARLY
SETTLEMENT, ORGANIZATION; THE FORMATION OF
ITS TOWNS, WITH BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCHES
OF PROMINENT RESIDENTS, ETC., ETC.**

BY

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they had received, and of the duties they owed their country. Doctor Tusten early evinced a spirit becoming a freeman; he took a decided part in favor of the revolution, which had at that time just begun to unfold itself; he risked his all in support of that declaration, wherein the signers pledged to each other and to their country, 'their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor;' and he redeemed that pledge by the sacrifice of his own life. By riding and exercise he had become more healthy; active and enterprising, he had gained the confidence of his countrymen. In 1777, he was appointed Lieutenant Colonel of the Goshen Regiment of Militia, under General Allison, and in 1778, he was appointed a Surrogate of Orange county, which office he held at the time of his death."—[Address of Doctor David R. Arnell before the Medical Society of Orange county, July 4, 1820.

Narrowsburgh was once known as Homans' Eddy. It received its name from an early settler, named Benjamin Homans.* After he ceased to live here, the place was called Big Eddy.

The name of the first man who made a clearing near the Eddy was Willis. His cabin was on the Pennsylvania side of the river. He was killed by Indians near the Cushetunk block-house, in the year 1763, after which time his family left the valley. Old settlers point out the place where stood his cabin, and the lot is yet known to some as the Willis lot. During the Revolutionary war, three Indians were killed and buried on this lot. In 1856, the skeletons of two of them were dug up, and in 1868 the other was uncovered by the washing away of the river-bank. The skull of the latter was broken to pieces by an Indian-hater!

Mr. Homans was the original settler on the New York bank of the river, according to a statement of Jeremiah Lillie, son of Jeremiah Lillie, senior. At what time Homans came is not known; but it was probably before the Revolutionary war, as Moses Van Winkle and Jonathan Decker, two of his neighbors, left for Minisink at the time of the Graham massacre. His successors were John and Benjamin Thomas, who with Jonathan Dexter and John Cole, were living at the Eddy in 1792. Simon Peter Cole also had his home in the neighborhood. He was probably a relative of John Cole.

Some of the old inhabitants say that during a very severe winter seventy-five years or more ago, the hay and straw at Homans' Eddy were all consumed, when Simon P. Cole and one Richard Rider sallied forth on snow-shoes day after day, and

* This Homans was a friend and associate of Tom Quick; but it does not appear that he participated in the crimes of the Indian-Slayer. In his old age he exhibited a rifle which he asserted Quick took from one of his red victims and presented to him (Homans).