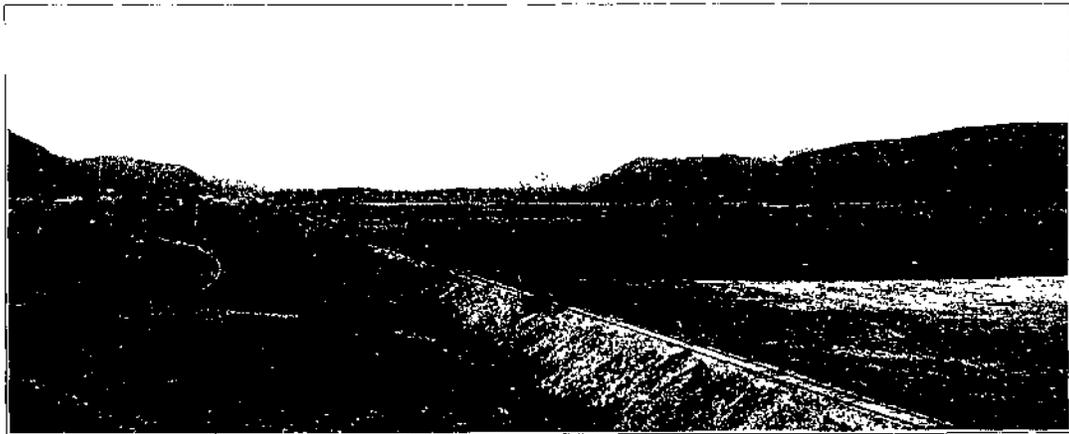


the things which he intended to take to the fort. Having turned their faces toward their destination, the savages rushed with brandished tomahawks upon them. The rapid footfalls of the moccasined Indians instantly apprised them of their fell purpose. Quickly confronting them and casting upon the uplifted war-hatchets of those nearest them the pieces of apparel which they had been carrying, they gained time enough in which to disengage the guns strapped to their own shoulders and to use them as clubs in beating off their impetuous but wary antagonists.

The stalwart father, solicitous for the safety of the people at the fort, seeing his son Jacobus, an exceedingly swift runner, strike to the ground the savage before him, bid him flee immediately to Fort Gumaer, and have the guard alert against any surprise of the enemy. Outnumbered as Justice Swartwout and his two sons, Philip and Gerardus, were, they heroically withstood their assailants, but soon sank dying to the ground, enervated with the warm blood of their frightfully cleft wounds. Jacobus, though closely pursued across several fields by a fleet-footed Indian, safely reached Fort Gumaer.



FOREGROUND OF THE SITE OF FORT GUMAER,

which stood, in 1778, where the faint outlines of three buildings are seen in the middle of the view, at the north end of the stretch of meadow-land, looking northward from the site of Justice Philip Swartwout's house, near the lower right-hand corner of the engraving, immediately east of the railroad.

On learning the startling intelligence, Captain Abraham Cuddeback, of Colonel James McClaughry's regiment of Ulster County militia, commanding the fort, in order to deceive the Indians respecting the number of armed men there, quickly paraded all the grown people before it; the women wearing men's coats and hats, and carrying over their shoulders sticks of wood of the length of guns. The timely stratagem was highly successful, for the distant savages, hearing the sound of a beaten drum, looked toward Fort Gumaer, and seeing the marching line of imagined militiamen, they passed it beyond the range