

Name: Goose Van Schaick

Years: September 15, 1736 – July 4, 1789

Residence: Albany, NY

Brief Biography:

Goose Van Schaick was born to Sybrant Gosen and Alida Roseboom Van Schaick in Albany, New York in 1736. In Van Schaick's young adulthood he became a military man, serving first as lieutenant in 1756, then as captain in 1758, and as a lieutenant colonel. He briefly left the military for a short period in-between the French and Indian War and the American Revolution. During this time of peace Van Schaick helped out his father with his real estate management business. During this time Van Schaick married Maria Ten Broeck, with whom he had six children. As discontent rose and the threat of war drew closer Van Schaick joined the Albany Committee of Correspondence, the Committee of Safety and once the war began he returned to a military life. In 1775, Van was made colonel of the second New York regiment, which moved to Lake Champlain to prepare for the invasion of Canada, but saw no action. This changed in 1776 when Van Schaick was made the colonel of the first New York regiment, which removed enemy Indians out of Tryon County; from there Van Schaick became involved in the defense of Fort Ticonderoga. In 1778, Van Schaick became busy, moving his troops to Valley Forge, then the Hudson Highlands, Fort Schuyler, and Fort Plank. During his moves in 1778, Van Schaick fought in the battle of Monmouth. After his success with a raid on the Onondaga Indian Villages, Van Schaick was made the commander of the Northern department of the army, where he mainly supplied army posts. In 1783, Van Schaick was promoted in Brevetted brigadier general and soon after retired. A few years later Van Schaick died in his Albany home.

Major Accomplishments:

Goose Van Schaick's major accomplishment during his long military career was his raid on the Onondaga Indian Village. Indians living there were known supporters and fighters for the British. In a well planned strategic movement "Van Schaick destroyed forty houses, livestock, and crops, killed fifteen Indians, and captured thirty-four." What was impressive about Van Schaick's assault on the Indians was that not one of his men died.

More Information:

Don R. Gerlach, *Proud Patriot: Philip Schuyler and the War of Independence, 1775-1783* (1987); Barbara Graymount, *The Iroquois in the American Revolution* (1972); Alexander C. Flick, *The American Revolution in New York* (1926). Egly, *Goose Van Schaik of Albany, 1736-1789: The Continental Army's Senior Colonel* (1992). Jonathan Pearson, *Contributions for the Genealogies of the First Settlers of the Ancient County of Albany, from 1630 to 1800* (1872); J. Munsell, comp., *Collections of the History of Albany* (3 vols., 1865-1870);

Resources:

American National Biography Online