

of their number. The others took refuge in the de Graff homestead, where, under Simon Toll, Charles's father, they gallantly defended themselves until the arrival of armed succor. Adrian van Slyck, the husband of Breje Toll, Charles's aunt, was among the number massacred. It is said that the families which suffered that day the loss of one or more kinsmen were the Toll, van Slyck, Veeder, Conde, de Graff, Mebie, Viele, and others whose names are still familiar.

The courtship of Carel Hansen Toll and Maria Ketelhuyn ended in their marriage in Schenectady, on October 2, 1759. The intimacy of the two families led to the acquaintance of William Ketelhuyn, Maria's brother, and Anneke, the third daughter of Simon and Hester de Graff Toll, Charles's sister. Her parents, it is said, disfavored their marriage, causing them to be wedded privately in Albany, on July 12, 1763.

It was a custom as early as the year 1770 for the mayor and members of the common council of Albany to visit Schaghticoke officially every year to inspect the farms belonging to the city. To arrange for the annual entertainment of these municipal officers, the city, on February 28, 1771, conveyed to Johannes Knickerbacker a tract of land containing three hundred and fifty-nine acres, which was to continue in his possession as long as he should provide at his house lodging and refreshment for them and grain and hay for their horses. Among the duties incumbent upon the visiting officials was the collection from time to time of the minor rents due the city, as is disclosed by the following resolution of the common council, passed February 11, 1775: "Three members are authorized and empowered to collect from their tenants at Schactekook the fowles which are due and in arrear to the corporation."<sup>1</sup>

When the struggle of the thirteen American colonies against British oppression was engaged in by the people of the province of New York, those at Schaghticoke promptly manifested their willingness to take up arms to vindicate their right to be free and independent. On October 20, 1775, John Knickerbacker was selected from their number and placed in command of the Fourteenth Regiment of Albany County militia, composed of companies organized in the towns of Hoosick and Schaghticoke.

The roster of the regiment as arranged on October 20, 1775, embraced the following field officers: John Knickerbacker, colonel; Dericck van Vechten, first major; John van Rensselaer, second; Carel Hansen Toll, adjutant; Ignas Kip, quartermaster.

These officers, and others later substituting them, with the stalwart yeomanry of the districts of Hoosick and Schaghticoke, were from time to time in active

<sup>1</sup> Centennial address relating to the early history of Schenectady and its first settlers. By John Saunders. Albany, 1879, pp. 122, 123, 124, 126, 127, 191, 192, 225, 226, 228.