

A Journall of Mr John Abeel during ~~his~~ the time of his Journey to the Seneca Country & his going out with our Indians Against the french in Canada where he was taken Prisoner & Confined in Prison in Quebec during the space of Twenty months &c.

first in 1746. I was hired by the Gouverneur to go to the Seneca Country & there to remain for the space of seven months for the sum of £50. & to take with me a Gun Smith & a servant for remain there with me for the same time ^{at} at my own cost. & at the expiration of my time I returned (having ~~before~~ paid to my attendants my whole salary so that I had nothing for my service, but what I got by Industry in Trade) with 10 Albany with five Indians & being then designed to make out a party of Indians at Canajohary I went there with said 5 Indians where I ~~procured~~ made up a company of ³⁵ Indians & seven whites. from thence we proceeded towards Montreal & after a Travell of 35 days we came to their frontiers ^{crossed the River of St. Lawrence} & landed on the Island of Montreal were a little before day I with a party of 5 men attacked a house (the remainder of the company being separated in small companies) and took 3 prisoners & burnt two houses & going further to destroy an other building when we were way layd by a french party of upwards of a hundred men by whom I & my party were taken ~~prisoners~~ & the french Prisoners retaken, & carried to Montreal & after 5 days Imprisonment there was sent downe to Quebec. at the same time Van Schaick & some of our Indians were also taken & ^{were sent with me} ~~sent~~ to Quebec as above mentioned. being arrivd there, we were ^{in number} ~~all~~ put in the Goal & put in the Dungeon ^{in Irons} for 40 hours. after that, the Indians were separated from us & we freed from ~~the~~ ^{our} Senecas but remained in that dark hole for five months having no other Allowance ~~tho~~ for our subsistence than half pound pork & some Bread & water. & no other sort, but I had better say that my Allowance was only bread & water for the pork was not be taken by reason of it's badness but by such as we, who had no other shift, or ^{to live on} starve, at the expiration of the first five months we were removed to another Goal where we were better provided than before, yet had not the same Priviledge with other English Prisoners. they being allow'd 2 hours in the morning & two in the afternoon to walke without doors ^{altho} ~~and~~ I wald & we but one in the A.M. & one P.M., not knowing how long ~~we should~~ continue in this state I wrote ^{the gouverneur} ~~to~~ for my Release & ^{told him I would resist} I suffer the affliction his Excellency did intend to put one me at once ^{than to} ~~that I might not suffer~~ & I have by Inches. or ^{at} ~~least~~ ^{I might have the} ~~some~~ liberty as my fellow Prisoners which ^{was} ~~was~~ granted. Short after this came Mr Thom^s Williams ^{Commissioner} ~~Commissioner~~ of with a flag of ^{by Governor Clinton} ~~truce~~ (my Brother being with him) to relieve our English Prisoners. at his arrival in Quebec, he applying to the Gouverneur for Van Schaick & my self in particular, with some others or at least as many

as he could procure. the Governor answered ^{Releasing} flatly Against ^{and} Schach
I my ^{Self} Release^{ment} & with all the art and good management he was
master of & no more than 12 persons prisoners were allowed. altho. he
brought with from albany as much greater Number. Judge then what
Capacity the Said Williams had to treat with the french Genies —
at this time my Brother who came on purpose to procure my Release
ment found that his Journey thither would be of no service to me, here-
upon he shew'd his Brotherly Love to me and offer'd the Gouverneur to go
in Goal & Remain there ^{in order to} ~~in order to~~ ^{it could be} ~~it could be~~ ^{Effectual} my
friend — ~~which at first I thought to be so well taken by the governor~~
that he said after such an offer by one Brother for the other I shoud so great
a Spirit of Love that My Brother shoud ^{not} be confin'd for me & that I shoud
have my ^{Freedom} ~~Return~~ Return with S^r Williams, which agreeable tidings
much Reviv'd my spirit; but alas it was soon Damp'd to its ~~former~~
again: to its former state having rec'd the governors Command that
I shoud not depart the Goal untill the french Prisoners were ^{all} ~~Released~~
~~from~~ that were among the Indians, thus fell all my hopes to nothing
^{not my time approaching that I was to} ~~that I was to~~ my Brother depart from me with my albany friends to prosecute
their Voyage to albany to give there only to give an account of our
melancholy Condition. notwithstanding all my Misfortunes I still made
myself as easy as Possibley a man can be in the like long Continued
State not ~~but~~ Expecting any Relief during the War. ^{yet} Some time in the
fall 1740. another flag of truce was Commissioned by Gov^r Clinton
Appointing ^{Mr} ~~Capt~~ Stoddard. ^{an English} ~~a~~ ^{captain} ~~of the~~ company from
Maryland for the Intended Expedition against Canada. with whom
my Brother came a second time, & I am Credibly Inform'd that ^{Mr} Stoddard
made Application to the Gov^r for the Releasement of our Indian Prisoners
before Ever he made mention of me or any of my fellow Prisoners, after
which the Gov^r ~~made~~ Rebuk'd him, saying what ^{do I say} ~~you have~~ you set a greater
Value & respect on the Indians than the Christians or do you think to ^{make} ~~make~~ ^{such} ~~such~~
Advantage by your Indians by your Applying for them before the Whites.
what the Answer was I cannot tell, however ~~after~~ at Length this second
flag of Truce Gentlemen ~~promised~~ ~~it~~ ~~your~~ ~~used~~ ~~also~~ ~~all~~ ~~his~~ ~~Efforts~~
as I suppose, release the poor English prisoners from their Den. ~~which~~ ~~and~~
~~amounted to the poor~~ ^{two in} ^{when they were a} ^{great} ^{number} ^{of} ^{them} ~~those~~ ~~taken~~ ~~after~~ ~~the~~ ~~operations~~
of arms was limited, now my Brother & my self set our second in
Agitation for my Relief with all the art of Application & Industry
we were Capable of but to no Effect. unless the former Offer made
by my Brother at the time of Thom^s Williams to write to become
Prisoner for me. which he complied with and at the Instant I came
there out, he Enter'd therein in my stead, & how long he will —
Continue in that State I can't tell but if not soon Reliev'd

I am Resolv'd (According to my Promise to him) in the Spring
to Return to Canada & Relieve him & become the Old Prisoner
again. Thus I Happily arrived ~~here~~ at Albany in Company
with a Number of French men Some of them people of Note
~~and~~ and see them daily ~~passing in Town~~ walk from Place to
Place having all the Opportunity men can wish to make
their Observations & Live in Splendour whilst my Brother
Other Unhappy Prisoners are ^{in Confinement in Canada} Penn'd up. I have not ~~at~~ the
Liberty of their Worst Attendant.

could procure no then

John Abel's
Journal of his
journey to Seneca
Co - his going out
with Indians
against the French
his capture & detention

1746

Taken out of 11:121.