

"PULPIT ROCK" ON CODORUS CREEK

Once Occupied By An
Indian Queen to Address
Schwanee Warriors

INDIANS' TROUBLES

By George R. Powell

Stories of a local character relating to the Indians of this region have a special interest. The late George Miller collected arrows, hatchets and other stone implements made by the red men, while he was studying the birds that visit southern Pennsylvania during the summer month, or remain here the entire year.

Down the Codorus below Grantley is a ledge which overhangs the Codorus. It has been known to the people of that vicinity as "Pulpit Rock." Mr. Miller once related to the writer a story about this ledge of rocks, and it is full of romance. Here it is:

Pulpit Rock stands along the banks of the Codorus at the base of White Oak Plains. According to a tradition circulated by the early residents of this vicinity, Pulpit Rock was once occupied by an Indian queen who addressed Schwanee warriors, her own tribe, after they had been defeated by the Susquehannocks. She urged them to sharpen their battle axes, make spears and Indian darts and with these implements of war, together with bows and arrows, defend their rights and liberties against the other red men, who had driven them westward from the banks of the Susquehanna.

In and around these favorite haunts, George Miller, the ornithologist of York, and Prof. A. Wanner, city superintendent of schools, spent many hours in interesting recreation in gathering implements of war and the chase, manufactured by the untutored Indians, who first occupied this region, caught the fish that were found abundantly in the Codorus creek, and shot the game in the adjoining woods.

The story of the Indian squaw doubtless was Queen Esther, who was the wife of a warrior in Bradford county. Well authenticated tradition gives her the credit of speaking to the warriors of her tribe after

being defeated by the enemy.

Bradford is one of the tier of counties in the northern part of Pennsylvania which border on New York. The Indians of that region caused trouble to the people of Wyoming valley, in the center of which lies the present city of Wilkes-Barre. The Bradford Indians united with the red men under Chief Brant, that came down the Susquehanna from Cherry valley, New York, and perpetrated what is known to history as the "Wyoming massacre," during the Revolution.

After the other Indians had been quelled by force of two thousand men under General Sullivan, the Bradford Indians still remained hostile. In the fall of 1778, Colonel Thomas Hartley marched from York with a full regiment of trained veterans, whom he had led in battle against the British. He passed up the Susquehanna into Bradford county, and conquered these red men, thus preventing them from causing future trouble.

The story of Queen Esther addressing her warriors was then a tradition among the people of northern Pennsylvania. Very little Indian disturbances occurred in that region following the expedition of Hartley when he pacified the Indians.

Pulpit Rock - 1922



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