

**SKETCHES OF THE LIFE AND INDIAN  
ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN SAMUEL  
BRADY, A NATIVE OF CUMBERLAND  
COUNTY, BORN 1758, A FEW MILES  
ABOVE NORTHUMBERLAND, PA**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649755271

Sketches of the life and Indian adventures of Captain Samuel Brady, a native of Cumberland County, born 1758, a few miles above Northumberland, Pa by Blairsville record

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.  
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

[www.triestepublishing.com](http://www.triestepublishing.com)

# **BLAIRSVILLE RECORD**

**SKETCHES OF THE LIFE AND INDIAN  
ADVENTURES OF CAPTAIN SAMUEL  
BRADY, A NATIVE OF CUMBERLAND  
COUNTY, BORN 1758, A FEW MILES  
ABOVE NORTHUMBERLAND, PA**



SKETCHES  
OF THE  
LIFE AND INDIAN ADVENTURES  
OF  
CAPTAIN SAMUEL BRADY

A NATIVE OF CUMBERLAND COUNTY,  
BORN 1758, A FEW MILES ABOVE NORTHUMBERLAND, PA.

---

THESE SKETCHES WERE ORIGINALLY WRITTEN IN NUMBERS  
FOR THE BLAIRSVILLE (PA.) "RECORD".

---

NEW YORK  
REPRINTED  
WILLIAM ABBATT

1914

Being Extra No. 33 of THE MAGAZINE OF HISTORY WITH NOTES AND QUERIES



SKETCHES OF THE  
LIFE OF CAPTAIN SAMUEL BRADY

---

SKETCH NO. 1

**W**HO has not heard of Brady—captain of the spies?—of his perilous adventures by field and flood—of his hair-breadth escapes in the imminent deadly breach—of his chivalrous courage—of his unmatched personal activity—Yet where do we read his history? It is to be learned only from the aged settlers of Western Pennsylvania, or peradventure from a time-worn Ranger;—for a few of Brady's warriors still survive.

Actuated by a desire to preserve from oblivion such portions of his life and actions as may yet be obtained, I have made several attempts to procure from individuals the most interesting events in his military career, but hitherto without success. At length an aged friend has kindly offered to furnish such details as an intimate acquaintance with Captain Brady enables him to give. We trust that the subject will be deemed of such interest that others will contribute their mite, and that an historian will yet be found to place Brady of the Rangers by the side of Wayne, Marion, Lee of the Legion, and other distinguished patriots whose memories are immortal.

He is emphatically the hero of Western Pennsylvania; and future bards of this region, when time shall have mellowed the facts of history, will find his name the personification of all that was fearless and fruitful of resources in the hour of danger. His the step that faltered not—the eye that quailed not, even in the terrific scenes of Indian warfare. Many a mother has quieted the fears and lulled to sleep her infant family, by the assurance that the broad Allegheny, the dividing line between the Indians and whites,

was watched by the gallant captain and his Rangers; and to their apprehensions of death or captivity by the Indians, has replied encouragingly,—“they dare not move on the river, for there lies Brady and the Rangers.”

John Brady, the father of Captain Samuel Brady, was born in the state of Delaware, in 1733. Hugh Brady, the father of John, had emigrated from Ireland, and at a very early period settled within five miles of where Shippensburgh now stands. The country was then a wilderness, thinly settled by Irish emigrants, simple, sincere and religious. Many anecdotes are told, showing this, but they would be out of place here.

During the French and Indian war, that part of the country was much harassed by the Indians. John Brady and several other young men had been active against them, and as a mark and reward of merit he was appointed captain in the Provincial line, which at that time was no small distinction. He married Mary Quigley, and Samuel their first child, was born in the town of Shippensburg, 1758.

After the war, and a purchase had been made from the Indians in 1768, John Brady moved with his family to the West Branch of the Susquehanna, where Samuel resided with him till June, 1775. Captain John Lowden, a widower, raised a company of volunteer riflemen, seventy in number, and all unmarried, and marched to Boston. Samuel Brady was one of this band, and the captain intended that he should be an officer, but his father objected saying: “Let him first learn the duty of a soldier, and then he will know how to act as an officer.”

While the riflemen lay before Boston, frequent skirmishes took place. On one occasion, Lowden was ordered to select some able-bodied men, and wade to an island, when the tide was out, and drive off some cattle belonging to the British. He considered



Brady too young for this service, and left him out of his selection; but to the Captain's astonishment Brady was the second man on the island and behaved most gallantly. On another occasion, he was sitting on a fence, with his captain, viewing the British works, when a cannon-ball struck the fence under them. Brady was first up, caught the Captain in his arms and raised him saying with great composure, "We are not hurt, captain." Many like instances of his coolness and courage happened while the army lay at Boston.

In 1776, Brady was appointed a first Lieutenant in Captain Thomas Doyle's company, raised in Lancaster county. He continued with the army, and was in all the principal engagements until after the battle of Monmouth, when he was promoted to a captaincy and ordered to the west under General Brodhead. On their march he had leave to visit his friends in Northumberland county. His father, in 1776, had accepted a captaincy in the 12th Pennsylvania Regiment, was badly wounded at the battle of Brandywine, and was then at home. Whilst there, he heard of his brother's death, who had been murdered by the Indians on August 9, 1778. He remained at his father's until the beginning of 1779, when he started for Pittsburgh and joined his regiment.

Shortly after he had arrived at Pittsburgh he heard the news of his father being murdered by the Indians, on the 11th day of April, 1779. He then vowed vengeance against *all Indians*, and he never altered his mind. Here commenced his western exploits, which must be the subject of another paper.

At the battle of Princeton he was under Col. Hand, of Lancaster, and had advanced too far;—they were nearly surrounded—Brady cut a horse out of a team, got his Colonel on, jumped on behind him, and made their escape.

At the massacre at Paoli, Brady had been on guard, and had laid down with his blanket buckled round him. The British were

nearly on them before the sentinel fired. Brady had to run; he tried to get clear of his blanket coat, but could not. As he jumped a post and rail fence, a British soldier struck at him with his bayonet and pinned the blanket to the rail, but so near the edge that it tore out. He dashed on,—a horseman overtook him and ordered him to stop. Brady wheeled, shot him down and ran on.

He got into a small swamp in a field. He knew of no person but one being in it beside himself; but in the morning there were fifty-five, one of whom was a Lieutenant. They compared commissions, Brady's was the oldest; he took the command and marched them to headquarters.

#### SKETCH NO. 2.

In 1780 a small fort within the present limits of Pittsburg was the headquarters of Gen. Brodhead,\* who was charged with the defence of this quarter of the frontier. The country north and west of the Allegheny river was in possession of the Indians. General Washington, whose comprehensive sagacity foresaw and provided against all dangers that menaced the country, wrote to Brodhead to select a suitable officer and dispatch him to Sandusky, for the purpose of examining the place and ascertaining the force of British and Indians assembled there, with a view to measures of preparation and defence against the depredations and attacks to be expected from thence.

Gen. Brodhead had no hesitation in making the selection of an officer qualified for this difficult and dangerous duty. He sent for Brady, showed him Washington's letter, and a draft or map of the country he must traverse; very defective, as Brady afterwards discovered, but the best, no doubt, that could be obtained at that time.

\*Daniel Brodhead (1736-1809) Colonel 8th Pennsylvania, and for many years surveyor-general of Pennsylvania.

Captain Brady was not insensible to the danger, or ignorant of the difficulty of the enterprize. But he saw the anxiety of the Father of his country to procure information that could only be obtained by this perilous mode, and knew its importance. His own danger was of inferior consideration. The appointment was accepted, and selecting a few soldiers, and four Chickasaw Indians as guides, he crossed the Allegheny river and was at once in the enemy's country.

It was in May, 1780, that he commenced his march. The season was uncommonly wet. Every considerable stream was swollen, neither road, bridge, nor house facilitated their march, or shielded their repose. Part of their provision was picked up by the way as they crept, rather than marched through the wilderness by night, and lay concealed in its brambles by day. The slightest trace of his movement, the print of a white man's foot on the sand of a river, might have occasioned the extermination of the party. Brady was versed in all the wiles of Indian stratagem and dressed in the full war dress of an Indian warrior, and well acquainted with their languages, he led his band in safety near to the Sandusky towns, without seeing a hostile Indian.

The night before he reached Sandusky he saw a fire, approached it and found two squaws reposing beside it. He passed on without molesting them. But his Chickasaws now deserted. This was alarming, for it was probable they had gone over to the enemy. However he determined to proceed. With a full knowledge of the horrible death that awaited him if taken prisoner, he passed on until he stood beside the town and on the bank of the river.

His first care was to provide a place of concealment for his men. When this was effected, having selected one man as the companion of his future adventures, he waded the river to an island partly covered with drift-wood, opposite the town, where he concealed himself and comrade for the night.