

ANN HENRY: LANCASTER COUNTY'S
WOMAN TREASURER.

Ann Henry, the treasurer of Lancaster county and wife of the Hon. William Henry, was the daughter of Abraham and Ursula Wood. According to the family records she was born In Bucks county, but the records of the Moravian Church, of Lancaster, show her to have been born in Burlington, N. J., January 21, 1734.

Her grandfather. John Wood, was a son of George Wood, of the Darby Quakers. John Wood married October 12, 1703, Jane, daughter of John and Barbary Bevin. John Bevin came from an ancient family, was a man of large means and lineally descended from Edward III. of England, the Beauforts and Somerset family, of England, and the Cymri Kings.

William Henry was the son of John and Elizabeth Henry. He was born in Chester county, May 19, 1729. His parents came from Ireland and were married in this country. They both died on the same day and are buried at the Old Octoraro meeting house, Chester county.

William Henry, in the fifteenth year of his age, was sent to Lancaster to learn the trade of a gunsmith with Matthew Roeser. He made Lancaster his home and soon became the head of a large establishment for the manufacture of guns. His residence and store stood at the corner of Moravian alley and Market Place. Moravian alley entered West *King* street at the west end of what is now known as the old Market House, which

was not then built, and where it now stands was Market Place.

William Henry lived with his sister, Mary Bickham, a widow, who kept house for him. An amusing family tradition is told of his courtshi^p. Mrs. Bickham invited Miss Wood and another friend to spend the day with her. Part of the time was spent in the garden. Standing in the hall through which the ladies had to pass was a broom, which Henry placed on the floor, and watched the coming of the ladies. His sister stepped over it, her friend pushed it aside with her foot, but Miss Wood picked it up and put it in its place. After the ladies left, Henry told his sister, "Miss Wood loved order, and would make a good wife. I shall strive to win her."

Mrs. Henry was of domestic habits and devoted to her family. She was competent to look after her husband's affairs when the various positions he filled during the Revolution called him from home.

When the British occupied Philadelphia the Henry house was an important place. He had living with him David Rittenhouse, John Hart and Tom Paine. The latter, on account of his drunken habits and "agnostic" views, was very much disliked by Mrs. Henry.

During Henry's absence from Lancaster his house was open to his friends, who were always welcomed by Mrs. Henry. A paragraph in a letter from a member of the Assembly describes her as having an attractive face which in conversation brightened and she entertained with much grace and dignity.

Among the many positions filled by Henry were Armourer to Braddock and Forbes expedition ; Justice of the Peace, 1758, 1770 and 1777 ; Member of the Assembly, 1776 ; Armourer of Pennsylvania, 1777; Assistant Commissioner General,

1778 ; Member of Congress, 1784-1786 and one of the founders of the Juliana library, of Lancaster, and at the time of his death treasurer of the county.

During his last illness his wife gave up everything to nurse him and prepared his business affairs. He died December 15, 1786. At the time of his death the State owed him a large amount, and the difference in value of Federal and State money and specie made it very difficult to adjust the accounts. His wife was then continued by the Governor as Treasurer, and remained so for several years, and, with the help of her sons, filled the office with credit. She had thirteen children. The best known of them were William Henry, who was Associate Justice of the Courts of Northampton county from 1788 to 1814 ; John Joseph Henry, Judge of the Courts of Lancaster county, and Benjamin West Henry, who was an artist of some merit and died young. Six of the children died in infancy.

Ann Henry died March 8, 1798. She and her husband were prominent members of the Moravian Church, and both are buried in the old Moravian burying ground of this city.

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