Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF WILLIAM HENRY, OF LANCASTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

John and Mary A. Henry, with their sons John, Robert, and James, natives of Scotland, in 1722 settled on a large tract of land they purchased on Doe Run, in West Cain Township, Chester County, Pennsylvania. The parents died in 1735; the sons Robert and James married sisters; the former, with his wife and children, removed to Virginia, and the latter died within a year after his marriage. John Henry, the younger, in 1728 married Elizabeth, daughter of Hugh and Mary A. (Jenkins) De Vinney, also of Chester County, and had issue five sons (three died young) and three daughters. He died in 1744, and a few years later his widow, with the children, removed to Lancaster, where she died in 1778.

William, son of John and Elizabeth Henry, was born in Chester County, May 19, 1729. In 1750 he engaged in the manufacture of fire-arms, and furnished supplies to the Indian traders. On the formation of Braddock's expedition against Fort Duquesne he was appointed Armorer, and served in a like position under General Forbes. He then took an active part in local affairs, and was appointed Justice of the Peace for the years 1758, 1770, and 1777; Associate Justice of the Courts of Common Pleas and Quarter Sessions in 1780; Burgess from 1766–1775; and Treasurer of the county from 1777–1786. In 1772 he was appointed on the Commission with Lukens and Rittenhouse to survey a route between the Lehigh and Susquehanna Rivers for the best location of a canal. He was a founder of the Juliana Library; in 1767 was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society, and became one of the first members of the Society for Promoting Agriculture.

William Henry early espoused the cause of the Colonies against Great Britain, and became an active and prominent
patriot. Selections from his voluminous correspondence have been printed in the Pennsylvania Magazine. In 1776 he was elected a member of the Assembly, in 1777 of the Committee of Safety of Pennsylvania, in 1778 was appointed Armorer of the State and Assistant Commissary-General of the United States, and in 1784 elected a member of Congress, serving two terms. During the occupation of Philadelphia by the British army Mr. Henry entertained as his guests, at his residence on Centre Square, David Rittenhouse, the State Treasurer, who used two rooms on the first floor for his office; Thomas Paine, who wrote the fifth Crisis there; and John Hart. As an ingenious inventor William Henry enjoyed a well-merited reputation. While on a visit to England in 1759–60 he first became interested in the application of steam for motive power, in which his experiments were known to Fitch, Paine, Ellicott, and others. In 1771 he invented the screw auger.

In the year 1756 William Henry made the acquaintance of Benjamin West and became his patron. The first figure picture the young artist painted from live models (employees of Mr. Henry), “The Death of Socrates,” is in the possession of Mr. Granville Henry, of Boulton, and two portraits of Mr. Henry and wife have recently been presented to the Historical Society of Pennsylvania.


Three of William Henry's sons became well-known citizens of the Commonwealth: William, Jr., was a Justice of the Northampton County Courts 1788–1814, and a Presidential Elector 1792; John Joseph accompanied Arnold's expedition into Canada via the Maine wilderness, subsequently wrote the “Campaign against Quebec,” and
became President Judge of the Second Judicial District of Pennsylvania; and Benjamin West Henry, a pupil of Gilbert Stuart, became an artist of merit, but died young.

William Henry, while attending a session of Congress in the city of New York, was stricken with the disease which terminated his life December 15, 1786, at Lancaster.