

**THE LIFE OF WILLIAM HENRY, OF
LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA,
1729-1786: PATRIOT, MILITARY
OFFICER, INVENTOR OF THE
STEAMBOAT**

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The Life of William Henry, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, 1729-1786: Patriot, Military Officer,
Inventor of the Steamboat by Francis Jordan

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FRANCIS JORDAN

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OF THE STEAMBOAT**



William Henry

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THE LIFE OF
WILLIAM HENRY

OF LANCASTER, PENNSYLVANIA

1729-1786

PATRIOT, MILITARY OFFICER,
INVENTOR OF THE STEAMBOAT

A CONTRIBUTION TO REVOLUTIONARY HISTORY

BY

FRANCIS JORDAN, JR.

A Member of the American Philosophical Society

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PREFACE.



WHEN it was first suggested that I should write the Life of William Henry, of Lancaster, Pennsylvania, by those of his descendants who desired a more intimate knowledge of his career than could be learned from fugitive accounts unsupported by documentary evidence, I thought to confine the work within the limits of a brief summary of his eventful early life and his activities during the Revolution.

After a careful examination of the material placed at my disposal, much of it new and all of it of more than ordinary historical and scientific interest, to the student of American history as well as to his posterity, I felt that to restrict its scope to the contemplated brochure would have been a distinct loss to both. It seemed to me that a full account of his unique personality and notable career, savoring almost of medieval romance; his inventive genius, his correspondence with statesmen, and military officers of high rank who figured

prominently in the struggle for independence, and finally his own eminent services to the State and Confederation, warranted not only a deserved tribute to his unostentatious patriotism, too long deferred, but an appeal to a larger audience.

If the book in its necessarily modest proportions fails to reveal the social and domestic side of his life, or his impressions of men of action of that day, it must be explained that he left no diary; and if in any of its parts it appears lacking in continuity, it must be charged to the absence of papers that, through ignorance of their importance to the historian, have been mislaid, perchance destroyed, and no longer available. In its preparation I desire to express my indebtedness to Granville Henry, Esq., of Boulton, Pa., Dr. John W. Jordan, of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Frank R. Diffenderffer, of Lancaster, without whose generous aid in supplying valuable data the book would have been incomplete indeed.

FRANCIS JORDAN, JR.

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