

**SOME PENNSYLVANIA
WOMEN DURING THE
WAR OF THE REVOLUTION**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649002870

Some Pennsylvania women during the War of the Revolution by William Henry Egle

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WILLIAM HENRY EGLE

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BY

WILLIAM HENRY EGLE, M. D.

HARRISBURG, PA.:

HARRISBURG PUBLISHING COMPANY

1868.

PREFATORY.

Little is known of many of the heroes of the "Days of Seventy-Six," and much less of the noble women of that most interesting period of our Nation's history. The object of the writer of these brief sketches is not only to present some facts concerning those to whom as Children of Revolutionary Sires we owe so much; but to bring, in sharp contrast, the patriotism, sufferings, and self-denials, of that band of American dames, with the frivolity and disloyalty of those women of the metropolises, which made the occupation of Philadelphia by the British in the Winter of 1777-78 a round of gayety. It is a well-known fact, lost sight of by many readers of historic fiction, that the saviors of our country at Valley Forge, in their raggedness and misery, would have starved, had it not been for that devoted band of true-hearted loving women whose homes were on or lying near the frontiers of our grand old Commonwealth. Without embellishment or fulsome laudation, facts are simply given—and these solely to teach that patriotism is one thing, while loyalty without philanthropy is another. These brief sketches of the Matrons of the Declaration are inscribed to "The Daughters" who will find harvest-fields in Pennsylvania revolutionary history which will yield them richer, nay, worthier gleanings than the too-oft threshed straw of New England fiction.

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MATRONS OF THE REVOLUTION.

ELIZABETH WILKINS ALLISON.

Elizabeth Wilkins, daughter of Robert Wilkins, was born in Donegal township, Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, July 7, 1749. Her parents were early settlers and prominent persons in that hive of Scotch-Irish pioneers. She was a woman of education and refinement. In 1762 she married John Allison, a native of the Cumberland Valley, where he was born December 23, 1738. His father, William Allison, was a native of the north of Ireland, came to America about the year 1730, located at first in Donegal, and subsequently in what was afterwards Antrim township, Cumberland county. John Allison, the second son, received a thorough English and classical education, and became a man of prominence on the frontiers. In October, 1764, he was commissioned one of the provincial magistrates, and recommissioned in 1769. At a meeting of the citizens of the county, held at Carlisle on July 12, 1774, he was appointed on the committee of observation for Cumberland, and became quite active in the contest for Independence. He was a member of the Provincial Conference held at Carpenter's Hall, 18th of June, 1776, and chosen by that body one of the judges of the election of members of the first Constitutional Convention for the second division of the county at Chambersburg. He commanded the Second Battalion of Cumberland County Associators during the Jersey campaigns of 1776 and 1777. He was a member of the General Assembly in 1778, 1780 and 1781. In the latter year he laid out the town of Greencastle which has grown to be one of the most prominent towns in the