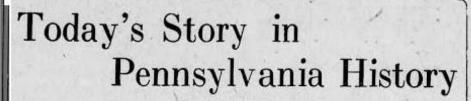
John Henry Antes (1736 – 1820)

John Henry Antes was born in 1736 to a prominent and active family in Pennsylvania. The entire family was involved in the Revolutionary War.

Col John Henry Antes (known as Henry) built a Fort on the Nippenose Creek which runs off the Susquehanna River. This fort was a safe haven for settlers in the area and protection for the area's grist mill which was also owned by Col. Antes. Col. Antes was practically the lone defender of this fort and one of the earliest pioneers to have a positive effect on permanent settlement in the area. This stockade fort was the center of military operations for months during not only the Indian raids but also from British raids.

As skirmishes intensified, word was sent to Fort Antes that the inhabitants must evacuate the Fort and return to Fort Muncy for safety where there was military protection. This evacuation was known as "the Great Runaway".



Flight of the Inhabitants Since Known as The Great Runaway, July 5, 1778.

> By FREDERIC A. GODCHARLES (Copyright, 1923, by the Author)

The great massacre at Wyoming oc- , they could. In justice to this counurred on July 3, 1778, and as the iews passed down the North Branch f the Susquehanna, and spread over he hills and valleys leading to the Vest Branch valley, it caused a genral stampede; a wild, prepitate light of the attlers from the uppper egion which has ever since been nown as the "Great Runaway."

The history of Pennsylvania has ailed to record any flight of its intabitants, either in numbers or the arrowing details of its movement omparable with this coastrophe.

Within two days following the masacre the news had penetrated the enire North Branch valley and had eached as far up the West Branch alley as Fort Antes, now Jersey hore.

On July 9, Colonel Samuel Hunter, he county lieutenant, and comman-ier of the garrison at Fort Augusta Sunbury), wrote to the Governor:

Divine Providence, and the virtue of our neighbors, induces the few to tand that remain; and if they are ot speedily reinforced they must give vay; but will have this consolation, hat they have stood in defense of heir liberty and country as long as

try (Northumberland), I must bear testimony that the states never applied to it for men in vain. I an sure the state must know that we have reduced ourselves to our present feeble condition by our readiness to turn out, upon all occasions, when called for in refence of the common cause. Should we now fall, for want of assistance, let the neighboring countles reconcile themselves, if they can, the breach of brothely love, charity and every other virtue which adorns and advances the human species above the brute creation. I will not attempt to point out the particular cruelties or barbarities that have been practiced on our unhappy inhabitants, but assure ou that, for the numbr, history affords no instance of more beathenish cruelty or savage barbarity than has been exhibited in county."

Colonel Matthew Smith wrote from Paxtang, July 12, that he "had just arrived at Harris Ferry, and beheld "Nothing but a firm reliance upon the greatest scenes of distress I ever saw. It was crowded with people was had come down the river, leaving everything." If the distress was the worst this old patriot ever beheld it was truly a sad scene, for Colonel Smith had suffered in both the French

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