

### Location.

As has already been noted, Smith found these Indians near the mouth of the Susquehanna in 1608, and reported that they had many implements of French manufacture, obtained in trade. At the beginning of the seventeenth century they are said to have held the Susquehanna River as far north, at least, as the present New York State Line. Previous to 1600 they had waged a destructive war against the Mohawks for ten years. And nearly ten years later Captain Smith mentions that the Sasquehannocks were great enemies of the Massawomekes, as he called the Mohawks. Bressani, one of the Jesuits, describes their dwelling place, in 1647, as "Andastoe, a country beyond the Neuter Nation," 150 leagues southeast by south of the Hurons in a straight line, and 200 leagues by trail. Clark thinks this would bring them in the vicinity of Columbia, Pa. Clark says:

"Bancroft was mistaken in placing them near Lake Erie. Gallatin's and La Houton's maps of 1683 thus place them. *they may have emigrated there to escape destruction.*"<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> See also J. G. Shea's notes in Alsop's "Maryland," and Parkman's "Jesuits."

Early in the seventeenth century it is said the Andastes towns were thickly planted from Tioga to Virginia, forty palisaded. The Jesuit Ragueneau, in 1648,<sup>5</sup> speaks of them as the allies of New Sweden.<sup>6</sup> Proud locates the Andastakes on Christiana Creek;<sup>7</sup> Campanius tells of their town near New Sweden in 1638.

Creuxius, on his very imperfect map of 1660, seems to locate them between the Susquehanna and the Delaware, in southeastern Pennsylvania. But, as has been said, Champlain was the first author to mention the Carantouannai, and their three villages, and to place them on a map. Accompanying this map was a table of explanation, in which he says (literal translation) :

"Carantounnai is a nation which is retired to the south of the Antouhonorons,<sup>8</sup> in a very beautiful and good country where they are strongly lodged, and are friends of all the other nations except the said Antouhonorons from whom they are only three days distant. They formerly took prisoners from the Dutch whom they sent back without doing them harm, believing that they were French."

An accompanying footnote by his editor says: "There is every reason to believe that these were Andastes." In the text, Champlain gives the country as "only seven days' journey from where the Dutch go to trade at the fortieth degree." He also mentions an incident of their encounter with the Mohawks in the previous year, 1614, and again (see Chapter III) he says Brulé found them having *three towns*, which Champlain so locates on his map that one would seem to be on the Chenango River, one east of Athens, and one below Milan. There is no way to-day of locating such towns at such points, although there are many evidences that there was an earlier village on the site of Queen Esther's town, and also across the river at the mouth of Spalding Creek: in each place the ground having formerly been so thickly strewn with arrow points as to suggest great battles before the Indians knew the use of firearms, which would be prior to 1640. However, General Clark and Rev. David Craft, having taken up this matter, decided some years ago that these three towns were Carantouan, on Spanish Hill; Ocolui, at the mouth of Sugar Creek, just above Towanda, and Gohontoto, at the mouth of Wyalusing Creek. In very recent years Dr. Craft has discovered every evidence of an Andaste town at the mouth of Tunkhannock, or Tenkghanake, Creek, also one at Meshoppen. In all these there is a striking similarity of situation, etc. Spanish Hill will be fully discussed in a later part of this chapter. The other three towns were in an exactly similar situation, on a high bluff, in the forks of a creek and a river, well situated for fortification and defense.<sup>9</sup> Yet at Ocolui there is evidence of an early Indian town on the plain below, as also at Carantouan, though they may have been later than Andastes. It seems, therefore, perfectly reasonable to assume that the Carantouans lived in the river towns where they could cultivate maize, and used the fortified towns as places of refuge when their enemies appeared. For from 1590 to 1675, or thereabouts, it is

<sup>5</sup> See Vol. 35, p. 193, "Relations."

<sup>6</sup> Vol. II, Chap. III, p. 294.

<sup>9</sup> Also of strategic importance, being located where important trails crossed the river.

<sup>7</sup> On the Delaware River.

<sup>8</sup> The western division of the Iroquois.

known that they controlled the Susquehanna Valley only by continued fierce and bitter warfare with the New York Iroquois. No doubt their chief stronghold, *because the largest*, was on Spanish Hill. A very great battle must have been fought at Wyalusing, as is evidenced by the great number of arrow heads found on the river plain just below the present bridge after the great flood of 1865 (many of which are in the Bixby collection in the Tioga Point Museum, and were found in *one week* after the flood). It was of the town Gahontoto that Zeisberger and Cammerhoff say:

"Here the Indians tell us there was a war in early times, against an Indian town, traces of which are yet visible, cornpits, etc. This was inhabited by a distinct nation, neither Iroquois nor Delawares, who spoke a peculiar language, and were called Tehotitachse, Against them the Five Nations warred and routed them out; the Cayugas for a time held a number captive, but the nation and the language are now exterminated and extinct. This war, said the Indian fell in the time when the Indians fought in battle with bows and arrows before they had guns and rifles."

This must have been prior to 1640 as Plowden's New Albion says: "The Swedes hired out three of their soldiers to the Susquehannocks, and have taught them the use of our arms and fights." It was about this same time that the Dutch sold firearms to the Iroquois, indeed, Egle writes:

"From 1640 the Five Nations were supplied with firearms, and soon devastated the tribes on the upper Susquehanna, thus opening the way to lower tribes on river on whom they commenced in 1652."

These two statements, taken in conjunction, lead us to suppose it possible that the Carantouans were routed from their upper fortified towns prior to 1640, which led them to apply to the Swedes, so that they might compete with their enemies in the use of firearms.