

Gen. Clark says :

"Andastes is a term generically used by the French, and applied to several distinct Indian tribes located south of the Five Nations in present territory of Pennsylvania. They were of kindred blood with Iroquois, and spoke a dialect of the same language. The most northerly were the Carantouans; the most southerly were located at Great Falls between Columbia and Harrisburg. Less is known of their tribes than of some others. No Jesuit mission was among them, though there is frequent reference to them in the Jesuit Relations."

"The French call them *Gandastogúcs* or *Conestogas*, the English *Susquehannocks*, the Dutch *Minquas*. Their own tribal name was *Andastes*, meaning cabin-pole men from Andasta, a cabin pole." They were also called *Arontaen*.<sup>1</sup>

In 1608 Capt. John Smith explored the lower Susquehanna and made the first report of that gigantic race of warriors, called by him, *Sasquesahannocks*, but generally acknowledged to be the same as the *Andastes*. Captain Smith said they were the finest specimens of men he ever saw, often seven feet tall, "and their language sounding from them as a voice in a vault."<sup>2</sup> He told of one who measured three-quarters of a yard around the calf of the leg. This great size would suggest the origin of the name Andastes. The greater part of their history is derived from Captain Smith's writings and the Jesuit Relations, in which the name has at least twenty different forms, as *Andastoé*, *Andastochonons*, etc. Schoolcraft<sup>3</sup> gives the name, from various sources, as *Andastoé*, *Andastogué*, *Gandastogué*, *Conestogoe*,

<sup>1</sup> "Hist. Ready Reference," Vol. I, p. 105, Larned. Prof. A. L. Guss gave an interesting critical analysis of the word Sasquehannock in "Hist. Register," Vol. I, No. IV.

<sup>2</sup> A number of huge skeletons found in the various Indian burial grounds of Tioga have suggested, by the size, that they were Andastes.

<sup>3</sup> "Hist. Indian Tribes," Part VI, p. 137.

*Andastaka*, etc. Charlevoix, Colden, Proud, De Vries, Hazard and other early authors all mention *Andastes*. Of more recent authors Parkman, no doubt, gives the fullest account. Other names are said to belong to them, as *Capitanesses* and *Gachooos*, seen on the early Dutch maps, but this is disputed.

Cammerhoff, the Moravian missionary, says, in 1750, the Cayugas called them *Te-ho-ti-ta-chse*. Dr Beauchamp says, "The Algonquins of New Jersey and Pennsylvania termed the *Andastes Minquas*. After the Iroquois had subjugated them the whole family (of kindred, including Iroquois) was termed *Mingo*. Thus Logan, *the Cayuga*, is often called a *Mingo*."

The names of the towns are said to have the following meanings: *Car-an-tou-an* means *Big Tree*, although we do not understand the significance. *Onontio* would seem more significant.

*Oscolui* seems to be the same as Spangenberg's *Osgochgo* or Weiser's *Osealui*, meaning *the fierce*.

*Gahontoto*, Dr. Beauchamp says, is an Iroquois word meaning *to lift the canoe*. (There are rapids in the river formerly called "falls." at *Wyalusing*.)

The later name, *Wyalusing*, is said to mean *the home of the old warrior*. The original *M'chwilusing* is a Delaware word, therefore of later date. Probably the *Andaste* word was *Gahontoto*. Doubtless, there was an *Andastes* town on the bluff at the north side of the creek at *Meshoppen*. Cammerhoff, or Zeisberger, writes in his journal:

"Came to 3 Delaware huts, the site of a very old Indian Town called *Onochsaë*, because immediately opposite there is a mountain near the river which is hollow and looks like a vaulted cellar, and the creek and the whole region have received this name." This was at *Meshoppen* (from *Craft Collections*). Beauchamp says this name meant *hollow mountain* or *cave in the rock*.

*Tenkghanache*, or *Tunkhannock*, means *Little Creek*, an appropriate name, as the town site was in the angle between the mouth of the creek and the river. Little is known about this town.