Born to Wm. Andrew Zane and his wife, in the year 1759, one lovely daughter, whom they named, "Elizabeth." This gentleman previously had four sons—Ebenazer, Silas, Jonathan, and Isaac. His home was on the south branch of the Potomac River in Virginia. Elizabeth, later nicknamed "Betty", was a beautiful, healthy child. She was witty, playful, and lovable. Her brothers greatly adored her. Isaac was stolen by the Indians and Betty mourned this loss. In 1776, a troop of British Regulars, numbering 40, stopped at W. A. Zane's residence for dinner. Betty, being much infuriated at the absurdness—her good father having to give away much food—having observed the boldness of these British soldiers, walked out one door of her home as the last soldier walked in another. She went to the foremost horses hitching post, untied the horse, and mounted the saddle. The remainder of the horses had been tied merely by dropping the rein over another horse's saddle pommel—thus the horses were all hitched together to the one foremost. Betty started the horses in line and took them all to George Washington's headquarters. The British did not know of the incident until it was too late to catch her. They were considerably ired by this deed but did not recover the horses. They watched for some time the home of Betty Zane to catch this brazen child but she stayed hid. She lived with a friend for several weeks and soon secured permission from her father to come home to her brothers at Wheeling, Va.

Betty came here in the year 1777. Immediately she became a favorite with all the people in Fort Henry. By 1782 Betty was greatly admired as a woman by one---Lewis Wetzel. However she spurned his love.

Betty performed the heroic feat of acquiring gun-powder from a log house sixty yards outside of Fort Henry in the afternoon of September 12, 1782, during the Indian siege, the last battle of the Revolutionary War, on Fort Henry Sept. 11-12-13, 1782.
In giving a sketch of the life of Elizabeth Zane, it will also be necessary to give a sketch of the family to which she belonged and incidentally how she came to be at the advanced frontier.

The family of Zanes were of the Society of Friends, and came to the city of Philadelphia among the early emigration - as is attested by a street named "Zane" in the original maps of the city. Andrew Zane, the father of Elizabeth, married his wife outside of the Society of Friends and, consequently, had to get a Writing which ostracised him to such a degree that it was necessary for him to find a new home for himself and family. From some cause of which I have no knowledge they drifted to the South Branch of the Potomac River in Virginia, not far from what was afterwards the town of Romney; then a far advanced frontier and much exposed to marauding bands of Indians. They lived, however, unmolested until the family had been increased by the birth of eight sons; when the Father with four of the sons were surprised while at work in their cornfield by a party of Wyandott Indians, and taken prisoners, carried west across the Allegheny Mountains and the Ohio River into what is now the State of Ohio at a place afterwards known as White-Eyes Plain in Tuscorawas County. There they remained thirteen years until the cession of the Canadas to England in 1763, when the Indians were called to Detroit to hold treaties with the English. They took Andrew Zane and three of his sons with them as interpreters - Silas, Ebenezer, and Jonathan, leaving Isaac who remained with the Indians, married a Squaw and raised a family. Andrew and his other sons were sent home by way of Canada, and Elizabeth, the only daughter and youngest child, was born after the father's return from captivity, - I think in 1764 or 5. The mother dying, Andrew married a second wife which broke up the family.
Ebenezer and Silas, having been so long among the Indians, had become expert woodmen and were restive under the restraints of civilized life, started west with some others crossing the mountains to the Ohio River and located at what is now Wheeling. Hopping that their acquaintance with Indian ways would protect them from them, but they were driven away from Wheeling and lived at what was then known as Redstone, now Brownsville, Fayette Co., Pa. until 1773 when they returned to Wheeling, a Fort having been built there in the meantime. Ebenezer had married Elizabeth McColloch in 1768 and had brought his wife with him. On their return to Wheeling, they built a Blockhouse about two hundred yards from the Fort in which they lived. The danger from savages requiring constant vigilance.

Some years after, the brothers had come west, Elizabeth was sent to a Quaker School at Wilmington, Delaware, where she remained until the landing of Lord Howe's army at the head of Elk and then advanced toward Philadelphia breaking up the school and Elizabeth was sent to some friends in the upper part of Chester Co., Pa, where she was when the Battle of Brandywine was fought; after which the country was overrun by foraging parties of Hessian soldiers. One day the quiet Quaker family where Betsy was staying were alarmed by the appearance of a Company of Hessian soldiers on Horses who stopped in front of the house. The family were greatly alarmed and all ran away and hid leaving Betsy (who was not made of that kind of stuff) to do the honors of the house. She met the soldiers at the door, invited them in by sign, as she could not understand their language; set before them a plentiful lunch, went to the cellar and brought a pitcher of Cider, and got them all seated at the table. She had, in the meantime, noticed that the horses were hitched by throwing one bridle rein over another and the last horse was hitched to the post.
So, when she found them all busy, she slipped out, mounted the hitched horse and started for the nearest post of Gen. Washington, taking with her 18 horses which she got safe to the Patriot Army. For this exploit she, in her old days got a Pension.

After the exploit, of course, Betsy had to leave that place, from whence she was sent to Jersey, and afterwards her father sent her to the West to live with her brother Ebenezer at Wheeling.

Now let me say a word in regard to the character of Betsy Zane. She did not take kindly to learning, - the extent to which she advanced was reading and writing. I was too young to know her when she might have been handsome; but there was certainly nothing remaining when I knew her to denote that she had been a beauty. She was rather above medium heighth with a good person of the athletic kind, being muscular with long arms and much bone, a low forehead, heavy eyebrows and large mouth with prominent chin. Age had probably given her shoulders a slight stoop. She was very amiable and I never heard of her being in a bad humor. She was entirely improvident, never giving evidence of the smallest idea of providing for the future.

After her arrival at Wheeling, Indian alarms and accounts of massacres were of daily occurrence. And in the early Autumn of 1782 a sudden alarm was given by John Lynn that a large body of Indians were advancing to attack the Fort. There were, at the time, no soldiers and no public stores in the place. The people arrived in what they could most conveniently get hold of - provisions, arms, ammunition, necessary clothing, etc., but short time was given for preparation until the enemy was upon them. Ebenezer Zane (Col.), living in a Blockhouse adjacent to the Fort thought it best to send the most of his family into the Fort as the safest place, and it would require a less number of men to defend the Blockhouse. Col. Ebenezer was trading largely with white men and Indians and had a good supply of ammunition and
stores of all kinds in his house, but there were no public stores in the Fort, and no arms excepting a small cannon. After the attack commenced, there was a boat came down the River with four men well armed who succeeded in getting into the Fort. This accession of strength was a Godsend to the people as there were few men and great numbers of women and children.

After the siege had lasted all of one day and night, the morning of the second day found the Fort short of powder and, as it was almost certain death for a man to show his head above the ramparts, the question was how were they to get some powder from the Blockhouse. At least, it was thought a woman might be sent, and if she should be killed it would be less loss than a man; so it was determined to send one. The Nurse of Mrs. Zane's children, Lydia Mills, volunteered to go. She was, at the time, nursing Mrs. Zane's son John, then 18 months old, and the arrangement was to make a nurse of Betsy Zane. The child would not go to Betsy and she said "let me go as I shall be of small loss if they do kill me," and I am swift of foot anyway, and strong, so that I can carry as much powder as we want." So it was arranged for her to go. They called over to the Blockhouse to be ready to open the door, and away she went. The Indians surprised cried out "Squaw! Squaw!" but did not shoot, and she got over safe.

Molly Scott put upon her a linsey petticoat, turned it up and sewed it into a bag, and they filled it with powder, as much as she could carry. She started back - the savages divined what she was carrying and opened fire upon her, - the bullets whistling around her - one of them tearing a hold in the petticoat which she caught up with her hand to save the powder; but no bullet touched her. She got to the Fort safely, and they had powder to open fire with their cannon, of which the Indians were much afraid.

Some years after this, Betsy married a man by the name of McLaughlin,
by which marriage she had five daughters; when her husband started
on an expedition down the River and nothing was ever afterward heard
of him. It was supposed he was killed by Indians. After remaining a
widow some seven or eight years, she married a man by the name of
Jacob Clark. Ebenezer Zane gave them some land on the hill back of
Martins Ferry in Belmont County, Ohio, where she died. She had two
children by Clark. Many of her Grandchildren are about Martins Ferry
and Wheeling yet.

I have read many newspaper accounts of Betsy Zane and none of them
giving the true inwardsness of her history and character. And being
one of the family myself and having better knowledge of these matters
than any person now living, - I was born and lived to manhood with the
actors in these scenes; was personally acquainted with Molly Scott,
Lydia Shepperd, John McColloch and Jonathan Zane; my mother being the
third daughter of Ebenezer Zane; and having a great taste for the
stories of the hairbreadth escapes and terrible conflict of the Indian
warfare of the early settlements of the West, together with a retentive
memory, - I suppose I may say that the above is as well - or better
documented than any other statement, as I have been in company with
Molly Scott, Lydia Shepperd, John McColloch and Aunt Betsy (as she
was always called in the family) when these matters were discussed.

John McIntire married a daughter of Ebenezer Zane, - they had no
children. Amelia was his daughter to whom he left a large estate,
and if she died without heirs, the estate was to go to a free school.
The estate never did any good until now, - we have a fine Children's Home
and School (in Zanesville) with plenty of funds to support it.

Zanesville, August 25, 1883.

Copied from a manuscript written by Elizabeth Zane Clark now living on
Lock Avenue near West Zanesville.

E. A. Hildreth, M. D.