

Colonial *and* Revolutionary  
Families *of* Pennsylvania

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Genealogical and Personal Memoirs

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VOLUME III



NEW YORK

CHICAGO

THE LEWIS PUBLISHING COMPANY

1911



## THOMAS McKEAN

The ancestry of the McKean family, so prominently associated with the history of Pennsylvania in the Revolutionary period and its early statehood, has been traced to William McKean, of Argyleshire, Scotland, who with his three sons, John, James and William, sought an asylum from religious and political persecution in Londonderry, Ireland, in the latter part of the seventeenth century.

JOHN McKEAN, one of the loyal defenders of Londonderry in 1668-69, had one son and three grandsons who emigrated to America at different periods. His son James, born in Argyleshire, Scotland, in 1666, emigrated to New England in 1718, and died in Londonderry, New Hampshire, November 9, 1756, in his ninetieth year, leaving numerous descendants, some of whom have been prominent in the affairs of the New England states and New York, among them Judge Levi McKean, of Poughkeepsie, New York.

JOHN McKEAN, son of John McKean, of Londonderry, removed to Ballymoney, Ireland, where he died. He had sons, Robert McKean, who settled in Cecil county, Maryland; John McKean, who settled in Nova Scotia; and William McKean, of whom presently.

WILLIAM McKEAN, son of John McKean, of Londonderry and Ballymoney, emigrated to Pennsylvania about 1725, with his wife Susannah, her son by a former marriage, John Creighton, and their sons, Thomas and William McKean, and daughters, Barbara and Margaret, and settled on a plantation of three hundred acres in New London township, Chester county, where he died within a few years of his settlement. His widow, Susanah McKean, continued to live on the plantation until her death in 1731. Her will dated December 29, 1730, proven February, 1730-31, mentions her children, John Creighton, William and Thomas McKean, and daughters, Barbara, wife of — Murray, and Margaret, wife of John Henderson.

WILLIAM McKEAN, son of William and Susannah McKean, born in Ireland in 1705, accompanied his parents to Pennsylvania, when a youth, and on his marriage, about 1731, to Letitia, daughter of Robert and Dorothea Finney, also of New London, became an innkeeper in New London, and resided there until the death of his wife in 1742. In 1745 he married Ann Logan, widow of James Logan, of Londonderry township, in the same county, and removed to the Logan plantation there, where he kept a tavern until his death, November 18, 1769, at the age of sixty-four years. His second wife died in 1751.

Robert Finney, father of Letitia (Finney) McKean, said to have been a trooper in the battle of Boyne in 1690, was born in Ireland in 1668, and with his wife Dorothea, and several children came to Pennsylvania and settled in New London township, Chester county, prior to 1720. In 1722 he purchased nine hundred acres of land in that township, and named his plantation "Thunder Hill," where he lived until his death in March, 1755, at the age of eighty-seven years. His wife Dorothea died in 1752, at the age of eighty-two years.



He was a ruling elder of the Elk River Presbyterian Church, known as the "Rocks Church", organized in 1720, and was the founder of the New London Presbyterian Church organized in 1728, then known as the congregation of the upper branches of the Elk. Robert and Dorothea Finney had five sons: Dr. John Finney, Esq., of New Castle county, a Colonial justice, later justice of the Orphan's Court of New Castle county, and lieutenant of militia; Dr. Robert Finney, of Thunder Hill; William, Lazarus, and Thomas Finney; and two daughters, Letitia McKean, and Ann, wife of John McClenachan.

William and Letitia (Finney) McKean had three children: Robert McKean, born July 13, 1732, first a physician, and later an eminent minister of the gospel in New Jersey, long pastor of St. Peter's Church, Perth Amboy; Dorothea McKean, who married John Thompson, of Delaware, and was the mother of Thomas McKean Thompson, secretary of state of Pennsylvania, under his uncle, Thomas McKean, and grandmother of Judge William McKennan, of the United States Circuit Court; and Thomas McKean, of whom presently.

HON. THOMAS McKEAN, the distinguished lawyer, soldier, statesman, and jurist, was the second son of William and Letitia (Finney) McKean, and was born in New London township, Chester county, Pennsylvania, March 19, 1734-5. Soon after the death of his mother, he, then at the age of nine years, and his brother Robert, aged eleven, were placed under the tuition of Rev. Francis Allison, the distinguished teacher and divine, in New Castle county, now the state of Delaware, where Dr. Allison long conducted a fine classical school. Here Colonel McKean received a thorough course of training in the English branches and a fair knowlege of Latin, French and German. He studied law with his relative, David Finney, of New Castle, and became a clerk in the office of the prothonotary of the county, and in 1754 was admitted to the practice of law in the counties of New Castle, Kent and Sussex, on the Delaware, now, comprising the state of Delaware, then territories of Pennsylvania, and in May, 1755, still in his minority, was admitted to the bar of his native county of Chester, Pennsylvania, and soon after arriving at the age of twenty-one to the bar of Philadelphia county, and April 17, 1758, he was admitted to practice in the Supreme Court of the Province of Pennsylvania. In 1756 Mr. McKean was appointed deputy-attorney-general for the county of Sussex, a position he filled for two years, resigning this office to go abroad to perfect his legal studies at the Middle Temple, London, where he was admitted May 9, 1758. He had also filled the position of clerk of the assembly, of Three Lower Counties, in 1757.

On his return from England he entered with characteristic vigor and energy on the practice of his profession, and also in the prosecution of a career of public usefulness. He was appointed with Caesar Rodney, in 1762, to revise and codify the laws passed since 1752, for the Three Lower Counties, and in October of the same year was elected to the Assembly from New Castle, in which body he served with great distinction until 1780, filling the position of speaker of the House of Assembly for seven years, 1772-79, though during the greater part of these seven years he was a resident of Philadelphia.

In 1764 he was selected as one of the trustees of the Loan Office, and was re-commissioned June 16, 1769, and again in 1773, serving three full terms of four years each. On November 1, 1764, he was commissioned a justice of the



peace, and justice of the Common Pleas and other courts of New Castle county, and while sitting as such for November term, 1765, and February term, 1766, issued an order that the several clerks and officers of the courts should use none but unstamped paper, in order to emphasize the determination of the American people to oppose to the utmost the enforcement of the odious Stamp Act, this being the first order of the kind issued in the American Colonies. He was a representative in the Stamp Act Congress which met at New York, October 7, 1765, and prepared and adopted a memorial to the King and Parliament on the subject of the Stamp Act, being one of the most prominent and active figures in the convention which continued in session until October 24, vigorously expressing himself in favor of a determined opposition to the enforcement of the Act, should their memorial fail to accomplish its repeal, and when the president of the convention, becoming alarmed at the treasonable tendency of the proceedings, refused to sign the memorial, McKean so severely denounced and ridiculed him for his cowardice, that he was challenged to a duel, but the chairman proved his cowardice by leaving the city clandestinely before the time set for the duel.

Thomas McKean was licensed to practice in the Chancery and other Provincial Courts of Pennsylvania in 1766, and on October 29, 1769, was commissioned a justice of the province and re-commissioned, April 10, 1773, and October 24, 1774. In 1769 he was sent to New York by the Assembly of New Castle, Kent and Sussex to secure copies and records for these counties during the period covered by the jurisdiction of the Duke of York and these records duly certified are still on file at the respective county seats of Delaware. In 1771 he was appointed collector of the port of New Castle. On August 1, 1774, he was named, with his life-long friend, Caesar Rodney, and George Reed, a delegate to the Provincial Congress at Philadelphia. And on the organization of the Continental Congress was elected to represent New Castle county therein, and served as that county's representative until 1782, though nominally a resident of Philadelphia from 1774. He was also one of the first Committee of Observation and Correspondence for New Castle County, and was one of the committee of thirteen appointed at a meeting of the citizens of the Three Lower Counties held at New Castle, June 20, 1774, to collect subscriptions for the people of Boston, after the closing of the port.

Thomas McKean was one of the active members of Continental Congress, in which he served from its inception until the signing of the preliminary treaty of peace in 1783. The historian Bancroft says of him in this connection; "Thomas McKean was the leading Delegate from Delaware and on the Fifth of September (1774) took his seat in that august assemblage of which he became an invaluable ornament, and from that day his country claimed him as her own". He was at once appointed on one of the most important committees,—“to state the rights of the Colonies—the various instances where these rights have been violated—and to report the means most proper to be taken for their restoration”. He was a member of the Secret Committee to procure ammunition and arms from abroad; was one of the most active in arranging the monetary affairs of the infant republic and active in the debate on all matters of importance before the Congress. He was one of the committee appointed



June 12, 1776, to draft Articles of Confederation, under which the United Colonies were governed until the adoption of the Federal Constitution in 1687.

Thomas McKean's first association with the military force forming for the defence of American liberties was as a member of Captain John Latta's Company of Associators, in the Second Battalion of Philadelphia City Militia, May 1, 1775. He had had some military experience in the French and Indian Wars, having in 1757, enrolled himself as a member of Captain Richard Williams' Company of Foot, from New Castle county, with which he received a thorough military training and saw some active service.

On the formation of the Fourth Battalion of Philadelphia Associators, he was commissioned its colonel, but when it was fully equipped and ready to march for New York, the momentous question of declaring the Colonies "free and independent State" was before Congress, and he remained in Philadelphia until the declaration was agreed to by a majority of the thirteen colonies, and then went with his command to Perth Amboy, without waiting to sign the engrossed copy of the Declaration of Independence, of which he had been one of the strongest advocates, and remained with it until its disbandment when succeeded by the "Flying Camp" in August, when he returned to Philadelphia. According to his own statement he did not sign the engrossed Declaration until 1781.

Colonel McKean strongly favored the resolution of May 15, 1776, declaring all authority under the crown of England be set aside, and as chairman of the Philadelphia Committee of Observation, called the convention of June 18, 1776, to ratify this resolve on the part of Pennsylvania, when it was "Resolved that we concur in a vote of Congress Declaring the United Colonies free and Independent States" which resolve was signed by Thomas McKean as president of the convention on June 24, 1776, and by him delivered to Congress the following day. Nevertheless when the crucial test came on July 2, 1776, in a vote of Richard Henry Lee's resolution, though it carried by a large majority, Pennsylvania's representatives voted against it, and George Read, Colonel McKean's colleague from Delaware also voted against it, and Caesar Rodney, the other representative from Delaware, not being present the vote of Delaware was a tie. Colonel McKean at once despatched an express for Rodney and secured the postponement of a day, and Caesar Rodney made his memorable ride of eighty miles on horseback, reaching Philadelphia in time to, with Colonel McKean, cast the majority vote of Delaware in favor of independence. Popular opinion in Pennsylvania in favor of independence, brought to bear upon her representatives in Congress largely through the efforts of Colonel McKean, also induced Franklin, Morton and Wilson to vote affirmatively, Willing and Humphreys voting against it as did Read of Delaware, while Dickinson and Morris refrained from voting, the two votes of Pennsylvania and one from Delaware being the only ones cast against it.

Colonel McKean did not re-enter the military service after the disbanding of the Associated Battalions, but gave his whole energy to the work of Congress and the Committee of Safety. He was extremely active in the selection and equipment of ten thousand men which were to compose Pennsylvania's contribution to the "Flying Camp" which was sent to the support of Washington, until the regular Continental forces could be organized and equipped.



On the same day that Congress passed the Declaration, the delegates from New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, with the Council of Safety, and Committee of Observation and Inspection of Philadelphia, and the Field Officers of the Pennsylvania forces, were named as a committee to devise measures for the safety of New Jersey, then threatened with invasion by Howe's army. They met on July 5, 1776, and Colonel McKean was called to the chair, and it was determined that all the available military forces should at once march to the support of Washington, and to defensive points in New Jersey. Three battalions were ordered to New Brunswick, and the remainder of the Pennsylvania troops including Colonel McKean's battalion under command of General Roberdeau, were ordered to join Washington, near New York. Therefore Colonel McKean marched at the head of his battalion to Perth Amboy, where they were under fire in defense of the Jersey coast.

Colonel McKean returned to his seat in Congress in August, 1776, but was almost immediately summoned by an express to attend the constitutional convention of the State of Delaware, held August 27, to which he had been elected a delegate during his absence with the army. He reached Newcastle the evening preceding the convention and was waited on by a delegation and requested to prepare a draft of a constitution for presentation to the convention on the morrow. Retiring to his room at the public inn, he sat up all night writing the constitution which was adopted the next day without material amendment, his knowledge of the people among whom he had so long lived and his profound knowledge of the law enabling him to perform this important duty unaided by a book or a like instrument as a guide.

Colonel McKean continued his activity in the cause of independence, frequently addressing meetings of citizens, urging and formulating plans for the defence of the city and province as well as general measures for the prosecution of the war. On July 28, 1777, he was commissioned by the Supreme Executive Council, chief justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania. He was still speaker of the Assembly of the State of Delaware, and on September 13, 1777, became president, or governor of the state of Delaware, succeeding John McKinley, who had been captured by the British soldiers, together with the greater part of the other state officers. Colonel McKean held this office only until a suitable successor could be selected, and the confusion resulting from the seizure of the state papers overcome, resigning September 26, 1777.

Chief Justice McKean held that office at the most trying time in the nation's existence, when a new element had come into the control of public affairs—when the constitution was crude and undefined—all laws unsettled—the civil authority to a large extent subordinate to the military, it being a time of war—when many cases coming before the court originated in personal enmity and political jealousies against old-time men of influence, not entirely in accord with the new regime, oftentimes growing out of a desire to profit by the confiscation of property of alleged enemies of the republic, not really such, and trials for treason, attainder, and confiscation were very frequent. To steer clear of the rocks of prejudice, and not founder on those of hastily formed public opinion, required a master mind. Well grounded in the law, clear headed and forceful, of inflexible honesty, during his twenty-two years occupancy of the chief justiceship he never wavered in what he deemed to be his duty to per-



form; no threat could intimidate, or influence divert him from the independent discharge of his duty. He was considered one of the greatest legal minds of our early history, and his several biographers unite in their indorsement of his ability and uprightness as a judge. One of his successors as chief justice has said of him, "He was a great man, his merit in the profession of law and as a judge has never been sufficiently appreciated. It is only since I have been on the bench that I have been able to conceive a just idea of the greatness of his merit. His legal learning was profound and accurate; the lucidity of his explication and the perspicuity of his language, which is the first excellence in the communication of ideas was perfect; but I never saw equalled his dignity of manner in delivering a charge to a jury or on a law argument at the Bar. But what is still more, his comprehension of mind in taking notes so as to embrace the *substance* and yet omit the *material* has appeared inimitable. All subsequent decisions of the Supreme Court have sanctioned his judicial fame, and European judges yielded him spontaneous praise".

He took the oath of office as chief justice, September 1, 1777, was re-appointed July 29, 1784, and July 20, 1791, and served until his resignation, in October, 1799, to take the office of governor of the state.

Judge McKean was commissioned with seven others, November 20, 1780, as a judge of the High Court of Errors and Appeals, established by Act of February 26, 1780, and served until its re-organization by Act of April 17, 1791, when he was re-appointed, and he served until the abolition of this court by the Act of February 24, 1806.

Judge McKean continued to hold his seat in Congress as the representative of Delaware until November, 1781, though he tendered his resignation, December 25, 1780, alleging that his health and his fortune were both becoming impaired in his unremitting attention to public affairs, and his inability to give to each position the attention his conscience dictated, stating in his letter a characteristic of his nature, "what I undertake to perform, I do with all my might". His resignation, however, was not accepted and he continued to serve as a delegate, and on July 10, 1781, was elected president of Congress, and presided as such at the time of the surrender of Cornwallis at Yorktown, being roused from his bed at midnight on October 22, 1781, by Colonel Tilghman, Washington's messenger to Congress, with the news of the surrender. He resigned the office of president of Congress on October 23, 1781, when his resignation was accepted, but on the next day he was unanimously re-elected and requested to serve until the first Monday in November, to which he consented, and again sent in his resignation, November 7, 1781, and received an unanimous vote of thanks, on his retirement.

Judge McKean was not a delegate to the United States Constitutional Convention of 1786-87, but took a lively interest in its proceedings. He was, however, a delegate to the Pennsylvania Convention to ratify the Federal Constitution, and to him and James Wilson we are equally indebted for their active efforts in securing its ratification by Pennsylvania. His speech before the convention on December 11, 1787, after his ardent efforts to answer the objections to its main features, was so prophetic of the wise provisions and enduring worth of the constitution that we are impelled to insert here a brief extract thereof:



"The objections to the Constitution having been answered, and all done away with, it remains pure and unhurt, and this alone is a favorable argument of its goodness. \* \* \* The law, Sirs, has been my study from my infancy, and my only profession. I have gone through the circle of offices in the legislative, executive and judicial departments of Government, and from all my study, observation and experience, I must declare that from a full examination and due consideration of this system, it appears to me the best the World has yet known."

Judge McKean, with his colleague, Judge William A. Atlee, and Judge Rush, represented the Constitution in the celebration of its adoption by the several States, held at Philadelphia, July 4, 1788, and delivered an eloquent address, congratulating Pennsylvania on its adoption. He was a delegate to the State Constitutional Convention of November 24, 1789, and acted as its chairman. He was one of the commissioners appointed to settle the claims between Georgia and South Carolina in 1796, and in the same year was a presidential elector.

Chief Justice McKean was elected governor of Pennsylvania, in October, 1799, and took the oath of office, December 17, 1799. He was re-elected at the expiration of his term three years later, and again in 1805, and served in all nine years as chief executive of his native state. His gubernatorial career was marked by great ability, and produced beneficial results to the Commonwealth, after which he retired to private life, at his residence in Philadelphia, where he died June 24, 1817, in his eighty-sixth year. His remains were interred in the Presbyterian burying ground on Market Street, but were later removed to the family vault of his grandson, Henry Pratt McKean, in Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Chief Justice McKean received the honorary degree of A. M. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1763; that of LL.D., from the College of New Jersey, now Princeton University, in 1781; and the same degree from Dartmouth College, New Hampshire, in 1782, and from the University of Pennsylvania in 1785. He became a trustee of the University of Pennsylvania under its old charter in 1779, and under the union charter in 1791. He was elected a member of the American Philosophical Society prior to 1770, and was one of its twelve councilors in 1786. He was elected a member of the Philadelphia Society for the Promotion of Agriculture, May 2, 1785. He received his diploma as a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, October 31, 1785, and subsequently became vice-president of the Pennsylvania Society. In 1790 he organized the Hibernian Society, and was its first president. When the news of the capture and burning of the national capital reached Philadelphia, a meeting of the citizens of Philadelphia was called at the State House, August 26, 1814, of which ex-Governor McKean was made chairman, and a "Committee of Defense" was organized. Governor McKean in his long career acquired considerable worldly estate, consisting largely of extensive tracts of land in the western portion of his native state, much of which was undeveloped prior to his death. By his will, executed in 1814, he devised his "Mansion House" in Philadelphia to his eldest son, Joseph Borden McKean, with his family Bible, "my Steel Seal Ring with my Coat of Arms cut thereon", etc.; to the four sons and four daughters of his deceased daughter, Elizabeth Pettit, he devised two thousand and two hundred acres in Beaver county; to his daughter, Letitia Buchanan, one thousand six hundred and eighty acres on the Ohio river in the same county, and a plantation in Center county; to the four children of his daughter, Anne Buchanan, one thousand one hundred and sixteen acres northwest of the Ohio



river, and four hundred and fourteen acres in Luzerne county; to his daughter, Sarah Maria Theresa, Marchioness de Casa Yrujo, eight tracts on Sewickley creek in Allegheny county, one thousand two hundred and sixty-six acres; to his son Thomas, his plantation called "Chatham", three hundred and eighty-two acres in London Grove township, Chester county, his silver-hilted sword, his stock, knee and shoebuckles, etc.; to his daughter, Sophia Dorothea, four tracts, one thousand six hundred and eighty-four acres, in Center county and two lots on Spruce Street, Philadelphia; and to his grandson, Samuel M. McKean, a plantation of three hundred acres in McKean county. His sons, Joseph B. and Thomas, and his son-in-law, Andrew Pettit, were named as executors.

Thomas McKean married (first) July 21, 1763, Mary, eldest daughter of Colonel Joseph Borden, of Bordentown, New Jersey, and his wife, Elizabeth (Rogers) Borden. She was born at Bordentown, July 21, 1744, died at Newcastle, March 13, 1773. She and her sister Ann, the wife of Francis Hopkinson, were said to be the two most beautiful women in New Jersey. Her ancestor, Richard Borden, born 1601, and his wife Joane, born 1604, settled at Portsmouth, Rhode Island, where he died May 25, 1671, and she July 5, 1683. Benjamin Borden, son of Richard and Joane Borden, born at Portsmouth, Rhode Island, 1649, married there, September 22, 1671, Abigail, daughter of Henry Glover, of Hartford, Connecticut, and removed to Shrewsbury, New Jersey, where his father had purchased land in 1667. He died there in 1718, and his widow Abigail in 1720.

Joseph Borden, grandfather of Mary (Borden) McKean, was a son of Benjamin and Abigail Borden, and was born in New Jersey, May 17, 1687. He purchased land at and was the founder of Bordentown, on the Delaware, opposite Penn's Manor of Pennsbury, where he died September 22, 1765, and his wife, Ann (Conover) Borden, March 11, 1754-55.

Colonel Joseph Borden, father of Mary (Borden) McKean, and son of Joseph and Ann (Conover) Borden, was born August 1, 1719. He was a member of the Stamp Act Congress of 1765, a member of the first Convention of New Jersey, July 2, 1774, a member of the Committee of Observation from Burlington county; became colonel and quartermaster-general of New Jersey and was one of the most active patriots throughout the Revolution. He was commissioned judge of the Courts of Common Pleas and other courts of Burlington county, September 11, 1776, and several times re-commissioned.

Judge McKean married (second) September 3, 1774, Sarah, born December 19, 1746, daughter of James Armitage, of Newcastle county, by his second wife, Francis (Land) Armitage, and granddaughter of Benjamin and Mary Armitage, of Cheltenham, Philadelphia county, who came from Holfreth, Yorkshire, England, about 1700, and settled on the Old York Road, below Abington, where they died, and both are buried in the old Presbyterian graveyard at Abington Church, where a quaint double tablet originally erected soon after their deaths records the death of Benjamin, November 23, 1775, at the age of seventy-five years; and Mary, February 15, 1728, at the age of seventy years. This Benjamin Armitage was a son of James Armitage, baptized at Lyddgate, Yorkshire, February, 1633-34, and his wife, Martha (Hatfield) Armitage, whom he married February, 1660; and grandson of Godfrey Armitage and Anne his



wife, of Yorkshire. His first cousins, Enoch and Caleb, sons of John, emigrated to America at about the same date, Enoch settling in Jersey, and Caleb in Rhode Island.

Chief Justice McKean, by his first wife, Mary (Borden) McKean, had six children: Joseph Borden McKean, lawyer, judge and scholar, attorney-general of Pennsylvania, 1800-09, judge of the District Court of Philadelphia, 1818-26; Robert McKean, a prominent shipping merchant of Philadelphia; Elizabeth, wife of Andrew Pettit, of Philadelphia, merchant; Mary, who died young; Letitia, wife of Dr. George Buchanan, of Baltimore; Anne, wife of Andrew Buchanan.

By his second wife, Sarah (Armitage) McKean, he had two children, Sarah Maria Theresa, who as "Miss Sally McKean" was a belle of Philadelphia society, while that city was the national capital, and married, April 10, 1792, Senor Don Carlos Martinez de Yrujo, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of the Spanish Court, at Philadelphia, 1796-1807, later Spanish minister at Paris, Rio Janeiro, etc., and Thomas McKean, Jr., of whom presently.

Judge McKean removed from Newcastle to Philadelphia on his second marriage and resided for a number of years on High, now Market Street, near Second. On December 20, 1780, he was granted permission by the Supreme Executive Council to reside in Rev. Jacob Duché's house on the east side of Third Street, which had been confiscated on Mr. Duché's flight to the British. Judge McKean purchased the house on August 10, 1781, and it was his residence until his death, when it passed to his eldest son, Joseph Borden McKean, by bequest.

THOMAS McKEAN, JR., only son of Chief Justice McKean by his second wife, Sarah (Armitage) McKean, was born in Philadelphia, November 20, 1770, and resided in that city all his life. He was for some years private secretary to his distinguished father, from 1803 to 1806. He married, September 14, 1809, Sarah Clementina, daughter of Henry Pratt, a successful shipping merchant of Philadelphia, and his wife, Elizabeth (Dundas) Pratt, and granddaughter of Matthew Pratt, a portrait painter. Henry Pratt and his family resided at "The Hills", a handsome country seat, now part of Fairmount Park, where they entertained extensively. Mrs. McKean was a beautiful and accomplished lady. She died December 31, 1836, at the age of fifty-five years. Her husband survived until May 5, 1852, having been in poor health for a number of years. They had four children, Henry Pratt McKean, of whom presently, and three daughters, Sarah Ann, wife of George Trott, Elizabeth Dunds, wife of Hon. Adolph E. Borie, United States Consul to Belgium, Secretary of the Navy under President Grant, etc., and Clementina Sophia, wife of Charles Louis Borie, of Philadelphia.

HENRY PRATT McKEAN, only son of Thomas and Sarah Clementina (Pratt) McKean, was born in Philadelphia, May 3, 1810. He was educated at private schools and the University of Pennsylvania, leaving the University before completing his course to take a position in the counting house of his grandfather, Henry Pratt, then one of the best known and most successful shipping merchants of Philadelphia. He remained in the employ of his grandfather for several years, acquiring valuable experience in business matters that was of



great assistance to him in his later business career. At the death of his grandfather, Henry Pratt, in 1838, he inherited an ample fortune. He had previously engaged in business for himself in the South American and Mexican trade, in which he had been quite successful. He later associated himself with his brothers-in-law, Adolph E. and Charles Louis Borie, and they carried on a large business. He gradually withdrew from the foreign trade, and devoted his energies and wealth to local enterprises, doing much for the development of business interests, and railroad facilities of his native city. In 1849 he purchased a large tract of land on what was then the northwest limits of the city, near Chestnut Hill, and established his country seat at "Fernhill" a superb country home, commanding a fine view of Philadelphia, the Delaware and Schuylkill rivers and portions of New Jersey. Here he and his talented wife extended a wide hospitality.

Henry Pratt McKean married, at Troy, New York, July 8, 1841, Phebe Elizabeth, daughter of Stephen Warren, of Troy, and his wife, Martha Cornell (Mabbett) Warren.

THOMAS McKEAN, only surviving child of Henry Pratt and Phebe Elizabeth (Warren) McKean, was born in Philadelphia, November 28, 1842. He graduated at the University of Pennsylvania in 1862, and at once became interested in his father's mercantile establishment, and later became one of the prominent merchants of the city. He, like his father, became interested in a number of local enterprises and institutions, and was a director of a number of financial institutions of Philadelphia, among them the Fidelity Insurance Trust and Safe Deposit Company, the Philadelphia Savings Fund Society, the Insurance Company of North America, etc.

Thomas McKean married, September 24, 1863, Elizabeth Wharton, born in Philadelphia, December 16, 1844, daughter of George Mifflin Wharton, Esquire, and his wife, Maria (Markoe) Wharton, granddaughter of Fishbourne Wharton, and his wife, Susan (Shoemaker) Wharton, and great-granddaughter of President Thomas Wharton, the first chief executive of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

THOMAS WHARTON, the maternal great-great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch, was born in Chester, Pennsylvania, in 1735, and was the second son of John and Mary (Dobbins) Wharton, and grandson of Thomas Wharton, of Kellorth, Parish of Overton, Westmoreland, England, of the ancient and honorable family of Wharton Hall, who came to Philadelphia, and married there, January 20, 1688-89, Rachel Thomas, a native of Monmouthshire, England; he was a prominent merchant of Philadelphia, a member of common council, etc., and died July 5, 1718.

Thomas Wharton was one of the largest importers of foreign goods in Philadelphia in the period just preceding the Revolutionary War; was a member of the Colony in Schuylkill, and other aristocratic social organizations, etc. He was one of the early signers of the non-importation resolutions in 1765, and was one of the first Committee of Observation for Philadelphia, appointed June 22, 1774. He represented the city in the Provincial Conference of July 15, 1774; was one of the first Committee of Safety; a delegate to the Constitutional Convention of August and September, 1776, and was one of the Council of Safety, the ruling body of the state for the five months intervening be-



tween the adoption of the constitution and the election of the Assembly and Supreme Executive Council thereunder. He was elected president of the Supreme Executive Council, and commander-in-chief and chief executive of Pennsylvania, March 4, 1777, and served until his death at Lancaster, in May, 1778. He married (first) Susannah, granddaughter of President Thomas Lloyd, several times acting lieutenant-governor of the Province of Pennsylvania; and (second) Elizabeth Fishbourne, born in Philadelphia, 1752, daughter of William and Mary (Tallman) Fishbourne, and granddaughter of William Fishbourne, Sr., Provincial Councilor, 1723-31, city treasurer, etc., and his wife Hannah (Carpenter) Fishbourne, daughter of Samuel Carpenter, Provincial Councilor, 1687-1713, mayor, member of assembly, etc.

William Fishbourne Wharton, youngest child of President Thomas Wharton and his second wife, Elizabeth (Fishbourne) Wharton, was born in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, August 10, 1778, three months after the death of his father. His mother returned to Philadelphia, after its evacuation by the British in the fall of 1778, and he was reared and educated in that city, spent his whole life there, dying in December, 1846. He married (first) May 10, 1804, Susan Shoemaker, who died November 3, 1821, and they were the parents of nine children of whom George Mifflin was the second.

George Mifflin Wharton, son of William Fishbourne and Susan (Shoemaker) Wharton, born December 26, 1808, graduated at the University of Pennsylvania, in the class of 1823, studied law and became one of the leading legal practitioners of Philadelphia. He was vice-provost of the Law Academy, 1845-55; United States district attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 1857-60; took a leading part in public affairs of his day. He was particularly active in the cause of education, serving many years as a member of the Board of Public Education, and some years as president of the Board of Control of the Public Schools of the City. He became a member of the American Philosophical Society in 1840, and took an active part in its work. He died February 5, 1870. He married, June 4, 1835, Maria, daughter of John and Kitty (Cox) Markoe, and granddaughter of Captain Abraham Markoe, first commander of the Philadelphia City Troop, and his wife, Elizabeth (Baynton) Markoe, and great-granddaughter of Peter Markoe, whose family emigrated from France to the West Indies in 1625. Among their children was Elizabeth, who married Thomas McKean.

Thomas and Elizabeth (Wharton) McKean had five children: Henry Pratt McKean, Jr., Thomas McKean, of whom presently; Maria Wharton McKean; George Wharton McKean; and Phebe Warren McKean, wife of Norton Downs, M. D., of Philadelphia.

THOMAS McKEAN, son of Thomas and Elizabeth (Wharton) McKean, was born in Philadelphia, April 29, 1869. He prepared for college at private schools in Philadelphia, and entering Trinity College, Hartford, Connecticut, graduated from that institution in 1892. He then entered the Law Department of the University of Pennsylvania, and received the degree of LL.B. in 1896, and was admitted to the Philadelphia bar, where he has since practiced. He is a member of the Pennsylvania Society Sons of the Revolution, and of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, and of the following memorial and social organizations: the General Alumni Association of the University of Pennsyl-



vania, Germantown Club, Merion Cricket Club, Philadelphia Country Club, Philadelphia Club, Rittenhouse Club, of Philadelphia; Philadelphia Racquet Club, Down Town Club, Franklin Insurance Club, Kippewa Club, and the University Barge Club.

Mr. McKean married, November 25, 1896, Katharine Johnstone, daughter of George Tucker and Nancy (Brinley) Bispham, of Philadelphia, and they have two children, Nancy Brinley McKean, born at Newport, Rhode Island, July 17, 1901, and Thomas McKean, Jr., born at Paris, France, March 16, 1909.