

Notes on the American Descendants of John Reckless, of Nottingham.¹

The first reference at hand appears in *New Jersey Archives*:—"1677/8, Jan. 29. Mahlon Stacy of Handsworth, Co. of York, England, tanner, to Samuel Reckless of Nottingham, Co. of Nottingham, ironmonger, for 1.15 of a share of West Jersey." This Samuel Reckless is evidently the same Samuel, son of John and father of Joseph, the last named of whom came "to America and settled in West Jersey anterior to 1712." Samuel died at Nottingham, 8 mo. 3rd, 1681, and it is probable that his son, Joseph, as a young man, emigrated to that Province, in West Jersey, to occupy his inheritance. Recklesstown, New Jersey, is a small village, dating back to the early settlement—"it derived its name from Joseph Reckless, one of the pioneer settlers of Chesterfield Township, who owned the land where the village is situated."

During the year 1712, said Joseph Reckless "purchased of John Wright, the mill property known as the Recklesstown Mill for the sum of £500," and "held the same until his death, when, by will, it went to his children." . . . "It remained in the Reckless Family for 111 years, or until 1823, when it was sold by Joseph Reckless," a descendant of the immigrant. It was rebuilt in 1882 and "some of the old oaken frame, as solid as ever, was permitted to remain." It is probably as old as any, if not the oldest mill in the United States, having been "erected before 1701."

From Chesterfield Monthly Meeting Records, we find that on 9 mo. 8th, 1716, at Burlington Meeting, New Jersey, Joseph Reckless (the immigrant) married Margaret Satterthwaite, and had children, Joseph, b. 1717, d. 1718;—John, b. 1718/19, d. 1721;—Anne, b. 8 mo. 2, 1720, m. 12 mo. 25, 1740, George Emlen of Philadelphia, son of George and grandson of George, who came from England to Pennsylvania in 1682. Anne (Reckless)

¹ For a record of John Reckless and his English descendants, see *THE JOURNAL*, vi. 58, 116.

Emlen died 2 mo. 4, 1816, and in a Philadelphia newspaper, under date of Feb. 10, 1816, appeared the following obituary notice—

Died on the fourth instant, in the ninety-sixth year of her age, Ann Emlen, widow, relict of George Emlen, formerly of this City, whom she survived about forty years—of their posterity (several of whom have held conspicuous stations in civil and religious society, and departed before her) one hundred and forty-seven yet survive in the relation of children, grandchildren and greatgrandchildren; herself long occupied the rank of an exemplary and charitable citizen, fulfilling with much propriety the duties of parent, friend, neighbour and mistress. She retained her faculties to the last; and very shortly before her departure, sensible of its approach, warmly recommended to her numerous descendants to live in harmony and moderation. Her remains, attended by a very numerous train of relations and friends, were interred on the sixth, in Friends' Burial Ground, Mulberry Street.

Their Philadelphia residence was on Chestnut Street, opposite Independence Hall, but it is not now standing.

The fourth and youngest child of Joseph and Margaret (Satterthwaite) Reckless, as appears in the Meeting Records referred to hereinbefore, was Joseph, Jr., b. 3 mo. 27, 1722.

Joseph Reckless, Sr., d. 4 mo. 10th, 1756. His wife, Margaret, d. 2 mo. 19th, 1739. He "served in different township offices seventeen years, the last as Overseer of Highways, 1747." His son, Joseph, Jr., also served in similar capacities from 1750 to 1767. In a genealogical account of the Reckless Family in America, which appears in a History of Burlington Co., N.J., it is stated that Joseph Reckless, Sr., secondly married Elizabeth Fowler, who left no issue. It also states that he had a fifth child, Elizabeth, daughter of his first wife, but her name does not appear in my copy of Friends' Records, as already mentioned. This account of the Reckless Family in the History of Burlington County is evidently not entirely correct, but taken in conjunction with Friends' Records, we have as follows—Joseph Reckless, Jr., "married Anne, daughter of Joseph and Hannah Woodward, and grand-daughter of the first Anthony Woodward." Their children were Joseph, born 10 mo. 29, 1753; Isaac, born 4 mo. 19, 1755; John, born 1756, 12 mo. 30; Robert, born 1758, died the "same year"; Anthony, born 8 mo. 13, 1760; Robert, born 3 mo. 1, 1763; Mary,

born 1 mo. 10, 1765. Anne (Woodward) Reckless survived her husband, Joseph, and married Col. William Shreve of the Revolution.

The Reckless Family about this time apparently drifted away from the Society of Friends. John Reckless married Mary Tallman. Robert Reckless, "a youth—was a soldier in Captain Richard Shreve's Burlington Light-horse during the Revolutionary War. In a skirmish with the Tories and Pine Robbers, under the notorious John Bacon, at Cedar Creek Bridge, Dec. 27. 1782, he fell mortally wounded." Anthony Reckless, when but seventeen, entered the "Sappers and Miners, Continental Army as a lieutenant, served through the whole war, and rose to the grade of Captain. He married Ann, daughter of Peter Tallman, of Burlington County, resided at Recklesstown and died in 1817."

The following Obituary, written by Aaron D. Woodruff, Attorney-General of New Jersey, and published at the time in the Trenton Federalist, shows the estimation in which he was held by the most prominent men in the State—"Early in life he embarked in the cause of the Country, and served with honor in the Revolutionary War until its close. He then entered into the pursuits of domestic life, and it was in this character that his virtues were more conspicuous." "His children were Joseph W.; Ann T.; Eliza E.; and Mary. Joseph W. married twice. His first wife was Hannah, the sister of the late John McKnight, Esq., of Bordentown. She died in 1831. His second wife was Mrs. Mary Anna Patrick, who died in 1849. The children by his first wife were John, b. 1810, married and died without issue. John W., Jr., b. 1812, married twice and died in 1877, leaving issue: Rebecca, Ann, Anthony and Charles. Rebecca married Dr. Canfield (G.W.)." Ann died young. "Anthony married Mary E., dau. of Gilbert Seaman, Mayor of Hightstown and had children, viz.: William M., Charles S., Joseph, Gilbert S. and Jennie S. Charles married Gertrude, dau. of Edward Stevenson of Brooklyn, N.Y."

On a recent visit to Recklesstown, the writer was told that no one by the name of Reckless now lives there. It would be somewhat difficult to trace all of the

Reckless descent in this country to the present time, and I therefore hope that this short sketch will suffice for the present.

JAMES EMLÉN.

Philadelphia, Pa.

Thwarted Marriage Proposals.

The following Minutes are taken from the records of Philadelphia Monthly Meeting as printed in the *Publications of the Genealogical Society of Pennsylvania*, vol. iv., no. 2—March, 1910 :—

“ 27th of 10th Month, 1695.

The matter in relation to Hannah Day being spoken to at this meeting, Friends tenderly advised her not to Entertain William Rakeshaw Richard Sutton, nor any other person in order to marriage untill a certain account shall come of her husband John Day's death, and do likewise advise William Rakeshaw & Richard Sutton being both present to desist all farther applications to her in relation to marriage, that so the truth may be kept clear in that behalf and friends desire Samuel Carpenter & John Parsons to assist the said Hannah in the management of her affairs.”

The years pass, and Hannah Day and other Friends from the Women's Meeting present couples to the Men's Meeting in order to marriage. Not till some four years later does she appear herself again before Men Friends, and then it is not with either of the two Friends mentioned in the previous Minute, but with James Atkinson. In this proposal she was, however, no more successful than on the previous occasion. We wonder how the matter was finally settled, and whether John Day ever turned up again.

“ 30th of 4th Month, 1699.

Wheras James Atkinson & Hannah Day proposed at the last monthly meeting that they intended to marry each other, and desired the consent of friends [they had, apparently, passed the Women's Meeting], whereupon this meeting having taken it into consideration, and nothing appearing that her late husband John Day is certainly dead, although long absent, therefore it is the advice of this meeting that they cannot proceed to marry among friends, and Samuel Carpenter & William Southeby are desired to speak with him about it.”

Dr. Fothergill's Prescription for Tender Eyes.

According to Dockter ffothergills advice to J^{no} Pole for his Son :—

Take Rosemary flowers—and Lavender flowers—of Each an Equall Quantity—Then Take as much of them mixed as a man hould^s between his finger an Thumb—and put in a Teeapot—Then fill the pot with hot water as to make tee and Lett the Patient hould his head over y^e Steem of it So as may go into the Eyes—This do goeing to bed every knight.

Rose mary mixd with Tobacko & Smoked—ab^t one Quart part rosemary—hath been by Experience found good.

From a MS. book in the possession of Fox Brothers & Co., Ltd., Wellington, Som.