

# ROSSIANA

Papers and Documents Relating to the History and Genealogy of the  
Ancient and Noble House of

## ROSS

of Ross-shire, Scotland, and its Descent from the Ancient Earls of Ross,  
together with the Descent of the Ancient and  
Historic Family of

## READ

from Rede of Troughend, Reade of Barton Court, Berks, and Read of  
Delaware. Also some account of the

## RELATED FAMILIES

of Meredith, Cadwalader, Carpenter, Pumpelly, Drake, Carron d'Allon-  
daus, Foras and Ward, and the New England and Mayflower  
Families of Allerton, Bradford, Cook, Cushman, Freeman, Marshall,  
Warren and Waterman, together with articles on Ancient Free-  
masonry, the Knights of the Amaranth and Knights of Albion.

BY MAJOR HARMON PUMPELLY READ, F. R. G. S.,

Member of the Historical Society of New York and the  
Archivio Storico Gentilizio of Italy.

Being a compilation of Original Documents found in the Archives of the Late  
General John Meredith Read, Original Articles by the Author and Com-  
piler, and Articles already published, including the Descent of the Earls of  
Ross by the Late Francis Nevile Reid, Esq.

ALBANY, N. Y., 1908.



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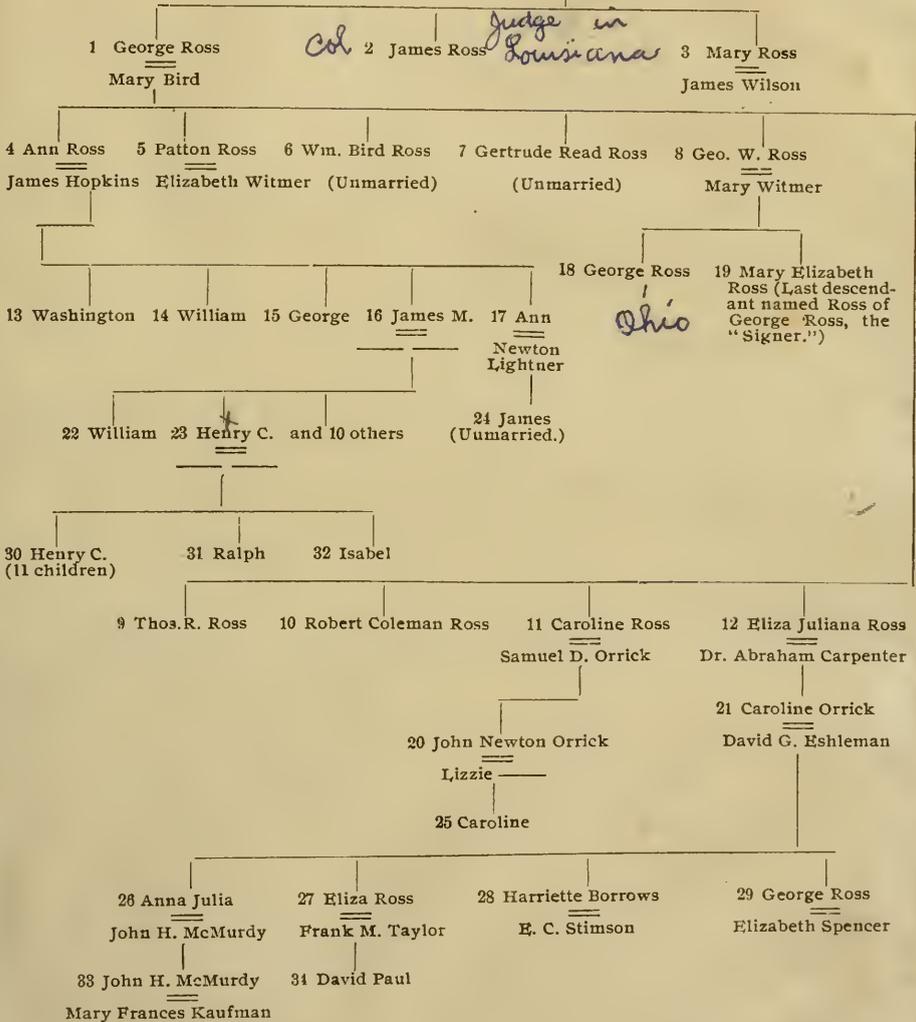
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DESCENDANTS OF GEORGE ROSS, THE "SIGNER,"  
GRANDSON OF DAVID ROSS, OF BALBLAIR.

GEORGE ROSS (The "Signer") = ANN LAWLER.



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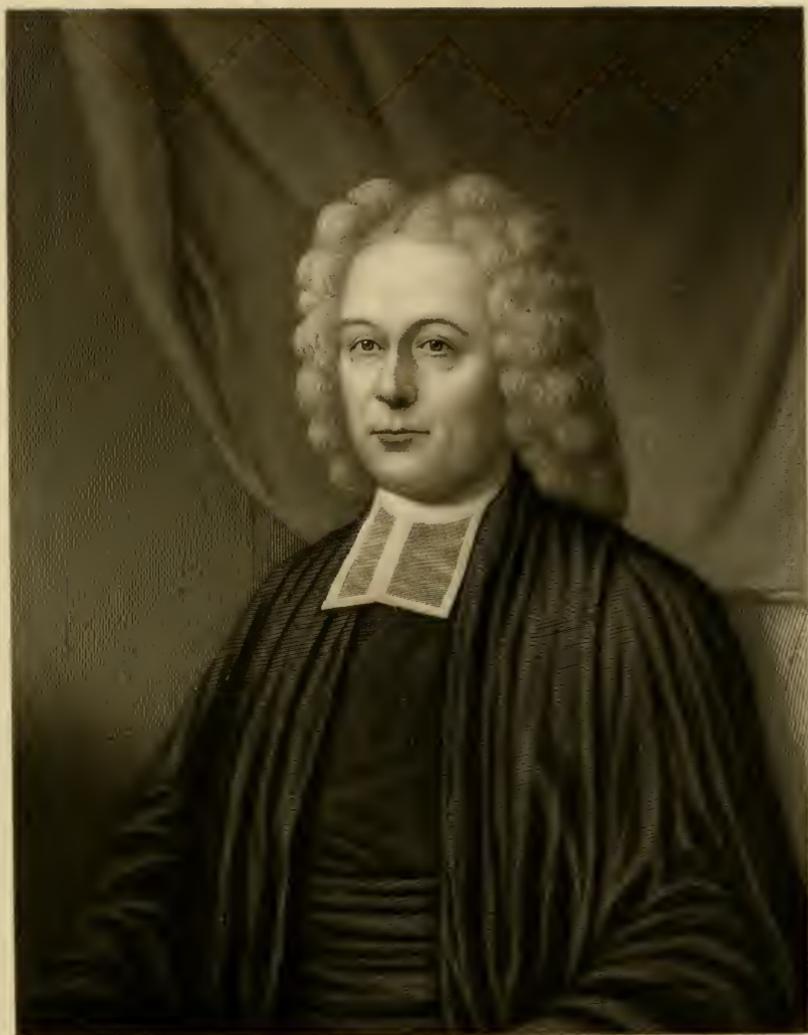
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Descendants of the Earls of Ross  
in America.

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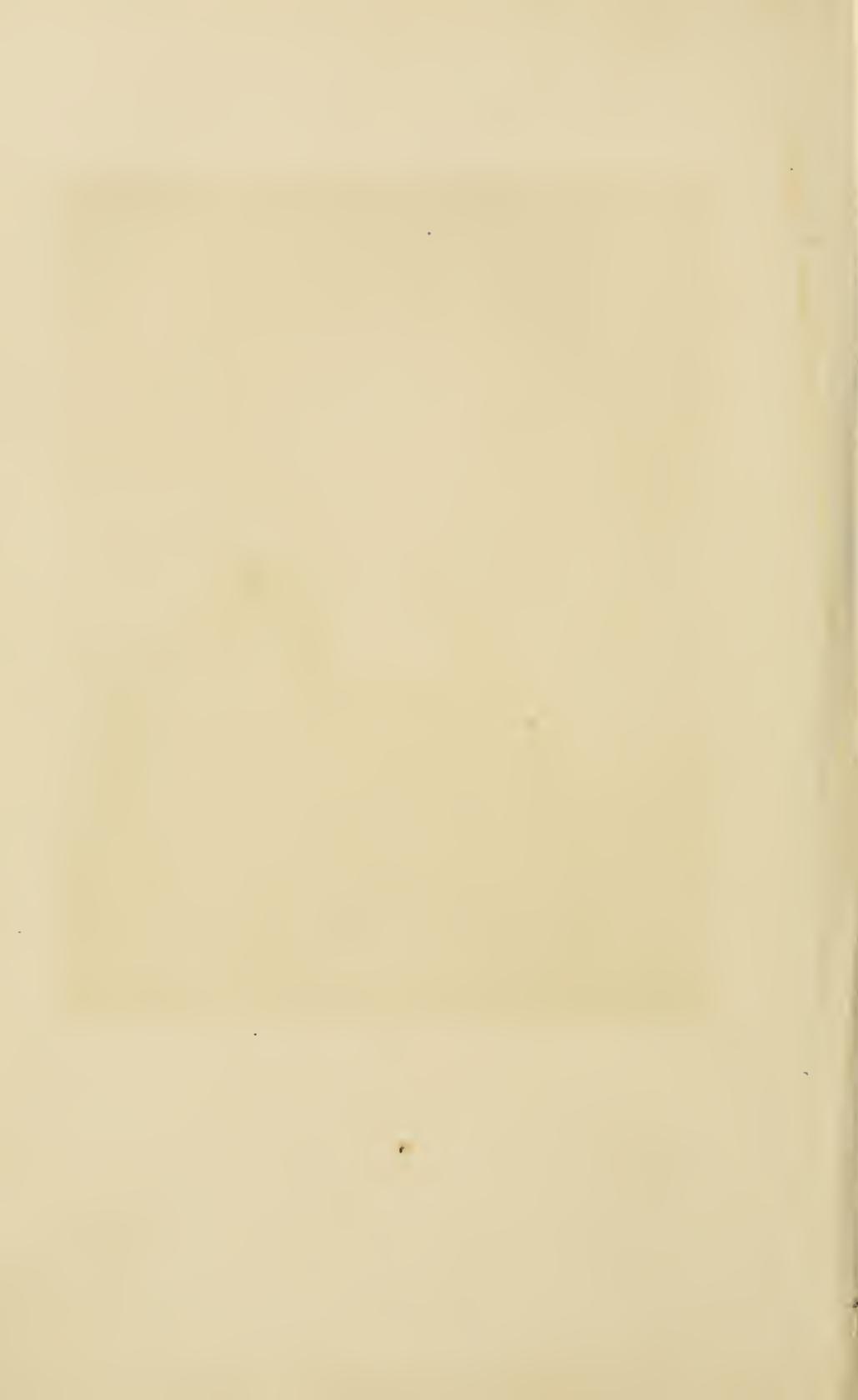




THE HISTORY OF THE UNITED STATES

BY JAMES MADISON

Published by G. & C. VAN NESTLAND, No. 12, NASSAU ST. N. Y. 1800.



## REV. GEORGE ROSS, M. A.

**R**EV. GEORGE ROSS (197c in Ross Chart) was the second son of David Ross of Balblair (197b), and his descent from the ancient Earls of Ross is clearly traced through five generations of the Earls, four generations of the noble house of Balnagown, one generation of the house of Shandwick, five generations of the branch of Balmachy and two generations of the branch of Balblair. He was born at Balblair in 1679, and was educated for the Presbyterian ministry, but left that denomination and took orders in the Church of England. He came to America in 1703 as a missionary of the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts, locating at Newcastle, Del. He soon rose to prominence, becoming one of the pillars of the Episcopal church in the American colonies, and acting as chaplain to several of the proprietary governors of Pennsylvania. He married, first, Joanna Williams, of Rhode Island, by whom he had six children. She died September 29, 1726, aet. 36. Her tomb, near the eastern gable of Emmanuel Church, bears this inscription: "Memor vertutum Johanne conjugis, honesto genere natal, hoc sepulchre monumentum maritus georgius Ross, Ev: Angelii praeco, extreundum curiast anno acquivit illa aebatis trigesimo Septimo, 29 Sept., 1726. Dixit ei Jesus. Quisquis vivit et credit in me non morietur in eternam. Calcanda semel via lethi."

Rev. George Ross married, secondly, Catherine Van Gezel, of New Castle, by whom he had seven children, among them Colonel George Ross (1730-1779), a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and Gertrude Ross, who married, first, Isaac Till, and, secondly, Hon. George Read, of New Castle, also a signer of the Declaration of Independence, thus connecting the two ancient families of Ross and Read. Rev. George Ross died at Newcastle, Del., in 1754.

### DESCENT OF REV. GEORGE ROSS FROM THE ANCIENT EARLS OF ROSS.

The descent of Rev. George Ross, of New Castle, Delaware, from the ancient Earls of Ross, is contained in the following abstract (the black-face figures having reference to the Key Chart of the Ross family shown elsewhere):

1. Malcolm, first Earl of Ross. (See "Earls of Ross," page 1).
2. Ferquhard, second Earl of Ross. He had —
3. William, third Earl of Ross, who married Jean, daughter of William Comyn, Earl of Buchan, by whom he had —
4. William, fourth Earl of Ross, married Euphemia —, and had —
5. Hugh, fifth Earl of Ross, married (1308), first, Lady Maude Bruce, sister of the King, and, secondly, Margaret, daughter of Sir David Graham, of Old Montrose. The Earldom descended to Hugh's son William by his first wife. Hugh's son Hugh became —

8. Hugh Ross,<sup>1</sup> of Rarichies, first Laird of Balnagown, who married Margaret de Barclay, and had —
9. William, second of Balnagown, who married Christian, daughter of Lord Livingstone. Their son and heir was —
10. Walter, third of Balnagown. He married Katherine, daughter of Paul McTyre, and had —
11. Hugh, fourth of Balnagown, who married Janet, daughter of the Earl of Sutherland. The succession of Balnagown passed to their son, John, fifth of Balnagown, while their son William, who married Greizel McDonald, became the father of —
143. Walter,<sup>2</sup> first of Shandwick, who married five wives, the first of whom, Janet Tulloch, is said to have been the mother of his sons. The line of Shandwick passed to Walter's first son, Donald, who became second of Shandwick. Walter's third son became —
191. Hugh,<sup>3</sup> first of Balmachy, or Balla-Muckie. His son —
192. Donald, second of Balmachy, married Margaret Innes. He had —
193. Walter, third of Balmachy, who married, as second wife, Jean Douglas. He had —
194. Hugh, fourth of Balmachy, who married Katherine Macleod, and had —
195. George, fifth of Balmachy, who married Margaret McCulloch. The line of Balmachy passed to Walter, their eldest son, as sixth of Balmachy. Andrew, second son of George, became —
- 197a. Andrew,<sup>4</sup> first of Balblair. He had —
- 197b. David, second of Balblair, who married Margaret Stronach, and had three sons, Andrew, George and Hugh, the second of whom was —
- 197c. Rev. George Ross, of New Castle, Delaware.

#### AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF REV. GEORGE ROSS, M. A.

The following autobiography of the Rev. George Ross, with the letter prefixed to it, was copied in 1835, by William Thompson Read, grandson of George Read, the "Signer," from an ancient manuscript (itself a copy) in the possession of his brother, George Read (3d), of Delaware, the words contained between brackets, thus [ ], having been supplied by him, as suggested by the context :

##### LETTER FROM REV. GEORGE ROSS TO HIS SON, JOHN ROSS, ESQ.

My very good son — You have, inclosed, an answer to your repeated request, wherein you may observe the easy and regular steps [by which] Providence conducted me to settle in this country. If my posterity contract

<sup>1</sup>See "Line of Balnagown," page 8.

<sup>2</sup>See "Line of Shandwick," page 31.

<sup>3</sup>See "Branch of Balmachy," page 40.

<sup>4</sup>See "Branch of Balblair," page 44.

any blemish, it must be from themselves; no original gulf can be imputed to them. It is well the rise of many families in these parts, like the head of the Nile, is unknown, and their glory consists in their obscurity. It is your satisfaction that it is otherwise with you; your escutcheon is without blot or stain. Contend, therefore, for the honor of your family by a kind and generous behavior toward the several branches of it, relieve them from contempt by your beneficence, and put them above the world by exercising that ability towards them which God has blessed you with, which, if you do, God will gather you, in His good time, to your honest and worthy progenitors. I have a quick sense of your filial favors, and you may be assured, dear son, that I am your most obliged and affectionate father,

GEORGE ROSS.

JOHN ROSS, ESQUIRE.

#### AUTOBIOGRAPHY.

George Ross, Rector [as he is styled in his presentation], of the Church in New Castle, was second son that came to man's estate of David Ross, of Balblair, a gentleman of moderate fortune, but of great integrity, born in the north of Scotland, in the Shire of Ross, in the Parish of Tain [near the town of Tain], about four or five miles [from that part of] the shire between two firths, the one the Firth of Murray, and the other the Firth of Dornoch. The land lying between the two firths terminates in a noted point called Tarbatness.

He was put to school very early, and made some progress in the Latin tongue under the care of the schoolmaster [in Tain], and, being of a promising genius, his father asked him, as they were going to a farm a little distance from home: "What would he be?" To which he answered: "A scholar," young as he was, *credonis peratione*. "A scholar you shall be," replied his father. When he was about fourteen years of age his eldest brother Andrew requested his father to send him to him at Edinburgh. Accordingly he was sent, but for the first twelve months little to his advantage, for instead of advancing him in his learning he made him attend his office and write from morning till night, often without his dinner—to his great disappointment, not through want of affection to his brother—but hurry of business and much company. His father, being informed of this low or no education, ordered him to be put to school and fitted for the university. Andrew lost his slave, and George was once more put in the way of being a scholar.

He took his degree of master of arts in Edinburgh in 1700. With this feather in his cap he returned home and became tutor to the Lord of May, his son, for which [tutorship] he was allowed ten pounds sterling per annum—great wages in that part of the world and at that time of day. [Having some] cash of his own, and somewhat anxious to see Edinburgh again, and taking [leave of his father] the [last time he ever saw him], not without some coolness on the son's side, for that the father did not add weight enough to his blessing, as the son expected—and even at that time he was not without the thought of foreign countries. I say, taking leave of his father, he proceeded on his journey to Edinburgh, and there entered his name among the students of divinity, worthy Mr. Meldrum being the professor. There was great hope of seeing worthy Mr. George mount the Presbyterian pulpit; but, *helas!* the closer he applied himself to reading,

the stronger his aversion grew to the party then uppermost in Scotland. He observed the leading men of that side to be some conscientious and hypocritical. He could not digest the ministers' odd gestures, grimaces, dry mouths and screwed faces in their pulpits. He could not comply with their practices even to save him from want of bread. Their "horrible *decretum* [as Calvin, the author of it, calls it] of reprobation," gave him a surfeit of their principles, and as to their church government, he was satisfied it was a spurious brat [the genuine product of Core's rebellion] of proud Presbyters [revolting] against their lawful bishops.

While he passed among the students for an orthodox brother, he was diligently informing himself of the principles of the Church of England, which [he] approved of so well that he was resolved, as soon as he could find encouragement, to set out for England. Mr. Thomas McKenzie, Chaplain to the Earl of Cromarty, Secretary of State for Scotland, was then at London, to whom he wrote on this subject. Mr. McKenzie [being of the same way of thinking, answered that] he might depend upon [being provided for] during the war, "the least," says he, "you can expect." Mr. McKenzie's letter he communicated to his brother, who, upon mature deliberation with some of the leading men of the Episcopal party in Scotland, procured him a bill of exchange for £18 11s. 9d. sterling. Thus strengthened and provided, and honored with a recommendation from the Bishop of Edinburgh, then ousted by the revolution, he bid adieu to his native country [after suffering much in the flesh by college diet among a set of canting Pharisees] and went to London, who received him very kindly and ordered him to attend the next ordination, at which he and his friend, McKenzie, with several other candidates, were put in deacon's orders. This happened nine days after his arrival at London, which proved no small mortification to the [dominant] party in Edinburgh and triumph to those of the contrary party.

He was soon promoted to a chaplaincy of eighty pounds sterling [per annum] on board a man-of-war. But the captain, being a haughty fellow, he soon grew sick of that station, and resolved to quit it as soon as he could be provided for. Returning to London, he found his friend McKenzie making application to the Society for Propagating the Gospel in Foreign Parts, then newly incorporated, for a mission. He was easily prevailed [upon] to join him in so commendable a design. Upon the Society's being satisfied, after full trial of their character and abilities, they were both admitted missionaries: McKenzie for Staten Island, and Ross for New Castle, who arrived there in 1703 [and continued], save for a few years, when he removed for his health's sake, till this time, being in his seventy-third year. How he behaved is known from the constant regard [of the Society for him].

GEORGE ROSS.

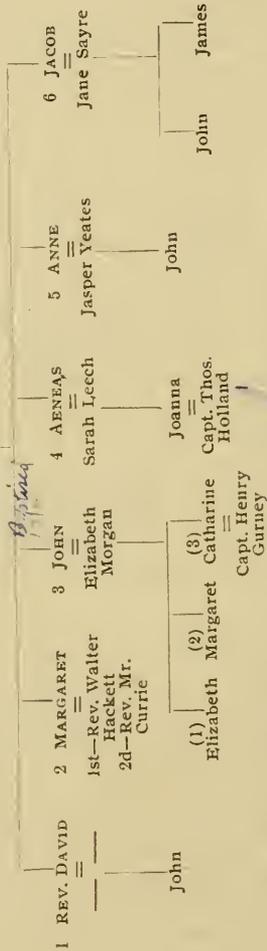


DESCENDANTS OF REV. GEORGE ROSS — 1679-1754.

SON OF DAVID ROSS OF BALBLAIR.

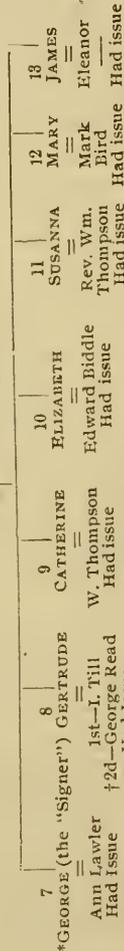
REV. GEORGE ROSS = JOANNA WILLIAMS.

(First Wife)



REV. GEORGE ROSS = CATHERINE VAN GEZEL

(Second Wife)



\* See Descendants of George Ross, the "Signer," Page 16f.

† See Descendants of Colonel John Read. Page 26f.

**DESCENDANTS OF REV. GEORGE ROSS.**

REV. GEORGE ROSS, by his first wife, Joanna Williams, of Rhode Island, had the following children:

11. David,<sup>2</sup> rector of St. Peter's Church at Albany, N. Y., where he had been a Church of England Missionary. He married ———, and left a son, John.
2. MARGARET, married, first, Rev. Walter Hackett, Rector at Appoquin- ing, who was born in Frasersburg, in Banff, a province of Scot- land, and was descended from the ancient and respectable family of Hackett. He died March 7, 1733, aged 33 years. His tomb is in Emmanuel Church burying ground, near the monument of his mother-in-law, Mrs. George Ross. (See monumental inscription above.) Margaret Ross married, second, the Rev. Mr. Currie, of Philadelphia. She was born in 1747; died 20th August, 1766. Had issue.
3. HON. JOHN ROSS, Attorney-General of Delaware, under the Crown, was the most eminent lawyer of his day in Philadelphia. Was baptized at Emmanuel Church, Newcastle, Del., October 21, 1714; died 8th May, 1776. Hon. John Ross married Elizabeth Morgan, daughter of Benjamin Morgan, gentleman, of Philadelphia, De- cember 28, 1731, at Christ Church, Philadelphia. She died 7th October, 1776, and was buried in St. Paul's Church, Philadelphia. They had —
  - (1.) ELIZABETH, born 2d May, 1740; died 13th August, 1741.
  - (2.) MARGARET, born ———, 1747; died 20th August, 1766.
  - (3.) CATHERINE, born 21st July, 1748; died s. p. 27th August, 1782, having married Captain Henry Gurney, an officer in the British army. (The above dates are from the Bible of John Ross, now in the possession of General J. Meredith Read.)
4. ÆNEAS, rector of the English Church at Oxford, Penn., became rector of Emmanuel Church, Newcastle, in 1758; baptized there 17th October, 1716; died there in 1782, having married Sarah Leach, by whom he had an only daughter, Joanna, who married, by license, 13th October, 1775, Captain Thomas Hol- land, an English officer, killed at the battle of Germantown, s. p.
5. ANNE, baptized 14th August, 1719; married Jasper Yeates, and had a son, John, baptized 16th May, 1798.
6. JACOB, married Jane Sayre. Their children were: John, baptized October 31, 1758, aged two weeks; James, baptized March 8, 1761, aged one year and one month.

<sup>1</sup>The black face figures refer to the Chart of the Descendants of Rev. George Ross, herewith.

<sup>2</sup>The Rev. Walton W. Battershall, D. D., the present rector of St. Peter's Church, however, believes that he was not the rector of the church, but took the place of the rector. There is no doubt whatever that he was the only clergyman in charge of the church at the time of his death. He was, like his father, a man of great learning.

REV. GEORGE ROSS, by his second wife, Catherine Van Gezel, had seven children, as follows:

7. COLONEL GEORGE ROSS (born 1730; died July 16, 1779), was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and lived in Lancaster, Pa. He married Ann Lawler, a Scotch lady, and had three children—George, James and Mary. (See Descendants of George Ross, the "Signer," *post.*)
8. GERTRUDE (died September, 1802); married, first, Isaac Till, and, secondly, on January 11, 1763, Hon. George Read, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and who was United States Senator, Chief Justice of Delaware, and Judge of the High Court of Admiralty. He was born in Cecil county, Maryland, December 17, 1733, and was descended from the old family of Read of Ipsden, in Oxfordshire. Gertrude Ross, by George Read, had three sons—George, William and John. (See Descendants of Colonel John Read, *post.*)
9. CATHERINE (died 1809); married Brigadier-General William Thompson, one of Washington's aides-de-camp. Had issue.
10. ELIZABETH; married Colonel Edward Biddle, June 26, 1761. Had issue.
11. SUSANNA; married Rev. William Thompson, of Maryland. Had issue.
12. MARY; married Mark Bird, January 6, 1763. Had issue.
13. JAMES; married Eleanor ———. Had issue.

#### LIST OF ROSS PORTRAITS.

Appended is a list of Ross portraits known to be in existence. The descriptions were written many years ago by General Meredith Read, who made a careful study of each:

1. Rev. George Ross, painted in wig, gown and band, seated with an open volume before him, doubtless the blessed gospel of which he was so able and faithful a minister. The face is oval, eyes hazel, complexion florid, features regular and sufficiently strong to indicate the intelligence and energy which were certainly his, without the occasional harshness of the Scottish physiognomy. The gravity expressed by the countenance seems to have been from a sense of the sacredness and dignity of his profession, superimposed over a natural hilarity of temper and humorousness which lurk under it, and over which it with difficulty holds the mastery. It does not appear by this picture when and by whom it was executed, but, as it represents Mr. Ross of about middle age, it must be at least 170 years old. It is in a good state of preservation and well painted. It hangs in the mansion of Mrs. Major Reeves and Miss Emily Read at Newcastle, Del.
2. Hon. John Ross, son of Rev. George Ross. This portrait is a fine specimen of the work of Alexander, a famous Scotch artist, who made a tour through the Southern States, and was afterward first master of Gilbert Stuart. It represents a gentleman of full face, regular

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NOTE.—The portraits of Gertrude Ross, Hon. John Ross and Mrs. Captain Gurney are now (1908) in possession of the author.

- features, hazel eyes, black velvet costume, with a full bag wig, seated in his library in an arm chair similar to those which were in the library of General Meredith Read. This portrait bears date 1766 and is now in possession of General Read.
3. Elizabeth Morgan, wife of Hon. John Ross (b. 1714; d. Oct. 7, 1776, aged 62). This is also an excellent specimen of Alexander's art, the lace and hands being particularly well painted. Mrs. Ross has an oval countenance, with regular features, dark liquid eyes and rich complexion. This portrait bears date of 1766, and is in possession of General Meredith Read.
  4. Catherine Ross (b. 1748; d. Aug. 27, 1782, aged 34), daughter of Hon. John Ross and wife of Captain Gurney. She is arrayed in a white satin court dress with large pearl pendants, and was painted when she was quite young. She is thinking perchance of her birds, her lover, or her flowers, and unconsciously touches the keys of the harpsichord by which she is standing. This picture and the preceding ones were hanging in the family mansion in Philadelphia when it was occupied by British officers during the Revolution, who hung their swords upon the carved frames and unintentionally scraped, without really damaging, the canvas, and the marks are to be seen to this day. The portrait of Mrs. Gurney hung in the mansion of the late Chief Justice John Meredith Read at Philadelphia, over the high mantel-piece, in a great bedroom occupied by his young son, afterwards General Meredith Read. On one occasion, the servant having neglected to close the blinds, and a terrific thunderstorm having arisen in the night, the little child was awakened by the lightning playing across the white figure on the canvas, and it seemed to his frightened imagination that this relative, so long dead, was stepping down from the frame and advancing toward him. The impression remained to the day of his death. This portrait, dated 1776, is also in possession of General Meredith Read.
  5. Gertrude Ross, wife of George Read, the "Signer." Painted by an unknown artist. She has an oval face, dark eyes and blonde hair, and is dressed in the fashion of the day, a rich blue brocade costume, with jeweled ornaments. This portrait was formerly in possession of General Meredith Read.
  6. Margaretta Ross, daughter of Hon. John Ross. The portrait shows a comely girl, with hair as dark as the raven's wing and eyes of the deepest blue, and the figure points to an urn with this inscription, "Margaretta Ross, obiit 20 Aug. 1766. Ae. 19. Si queris animam meam, respice cælum si formam en est."

## CORRESPONDENCE.

## EXTRACTS FROM LETTERS RELATING TO THE DESCENDANTS OF REV. GEORGE ROSS.

Mr. Francis Nevile Reid wrote to his distant kinsman through the Ross family, General Meredith Read, from Minori, per Ravello, Province of Salerno, Italy, February 12, 1892:

"I am writing for the Scottish Antiquary, or Northern Notes and Queries, an account of the family of Ross, and the families descended from them. Among these families is Ross of Balblair, your ancestors.

"Mrs. David G. Eshleman, of Newcastle, Penn., has greatly helped me. Thus, the descendants of the second marriage of George Ross, who went to Lancaster in 1705, are all in the pedigree, where your name appears. Of the first marriage of George Ross with Joanna Williams of Rhode Island, I can only learn that there were nine children, of whom some of the descendants are living in Delaware. I am anxious to obtain some information about them, especially if there is any male representative of this branch."

General Meredith Read replied on the 16th February, 1892, and, among other things, said:

"As to the descendants of the first marriage of George Ross with Joanna Williams, I think it will be difficult to trace many of them.

"Here is an extract from the family bible of the eldest, the Honourable John Ross, of Philadelphia, Attorney-General under the Crown: 'John Ross, Esquire, of Philadelphia, son of the Rev. George Ross, rector of the Church of Newcastle, on Delaware, was solemnly married to Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan, of Philadelphia, eldest daughter of Mr. Benjamin Morgan, of Philadelphia, gentleman, on the 18th day of December, 1735, by the Rev. Mr. Archibald Cummings, Commissary and Rector of Christ Church, Philadelphia.' Their children were:

"Elizabeth Ross, born May 2, 1740; died August 13, 1741.

"Margaret Ross, born ——— 25, 1747; died August 20, 1766.

"Catherine, born July 21, 1748; died August 27, 1782; married Henry Gurney, Esquire, of Philadelphia, late of the British Army, who served in the German wars in the middle of the eighteenth century.

"Captain Gurney's bookplate is in the family bible of John Ross, Esquire, which bible was published at Oxford, by John Basket, in 1727. John Ross, Esquire, was born in 1714, and died at the opening of the American Revolution. There are no descendants living."

Mr. Nevile Reid replied on the 23d February, 1892:

"I am exceedingly obliged to you for the kind answer to my letter, and for the extracts from John Ross' bible. On a separate paper I note what I know about the first and second families of the Rev. George Ross, who went to Newcastle. In both accounts it is stated that John Ross married Elizabeth Ashe, whereas, from the bible, his wife's name is Elizabeth Morgan, which must be correct. I am anxious to learn whether there is any male representative of the first marriage of the Rev. George Ross. Of the second there is but one, George Ross, an old man. Unless there is some male of the first family, I am afraid the old branch of Balblair, like so many of the Ross families, will soon be extinct.

May I ask you two other favours; will you give me your descent, and from whom is General Edward Burd Grubb descended? From a daughter of the Rev. George Ross, who married the Rev. W. Thompson, of Maryland? Balblair descends from Balmachy, or Ballanuckie, this from Shandwick, and this from Balnagown. I descend from Mary Ross of Shandwick, from whom this property came into my family, and is now owned by my nephew, my elder brother's son.

With regard to the family name of Stronach, it seems to be the same as the word Stron'-each (Stronfitheach)."

In Black's Guide to Scotland, page 561, we find the following:

"Shieldaig derives a considerable amount of natural beauty from the charming wooded isle which lies in the bay, the strange looking craig of Stron'-each (Stronfitheach), so named from its resemblance to the beak of the raven, at the base of which the village is situated, and the distant tableland of Gairloch stretching out into the sea.

EDMUND H. BELL, OF PHILADELPHIA, TO GENERAL MEREDITH READ.

CHESTNUT HILL, PHILADA, Nov. 28th, 1893.

My dear Sir:—

I beg to acknowledge receipt of your valued favor of 7th inst. and your kindness tempts me to trespass further on your time. I think I have succeeded in locating the thirteen children of Rev. George Ross, and some of their children, but as to their ages and relative position I am considerably puzzled, as I cannot get dates of birth. I am inclined to arrange them as follows:

*Children of Rev. George Ross and Joanna Williams.*

1. David: b. ———, d. ———, m. ———. Had issue.
2. Margaret: b. ———, d. ———; m., 1st, Rev. Walter Hackett; m., 2nd, Rev. William Currie. Had issue.
3. John: b. 1714; d. May 8th, 1776; m. Dec. 28th, 1735, Elizabeth Morgan. Had issue.
4. Aeneas: b. Sept. 17th, 1716; d. bet. 9th and 29th of April, 1783; m. Jany. 3, 1745, Sarah Leech. Had issue.
5. Anne: b. 1719; d. ———; m. ———, Jasper Yeates.
6. Jacob: b. ———, d. ———; m. April 10th, 1755, Jane Sayre. Had issue.

*Children of Rev. George Ross and Catherine Van Gezel.<sup>1</sup>*

7. George: b. 1730; d. July 16th, 1779; m. Aug. 17th, 1751, Ann Lawler. Had issue.
8. Gertrude: b. ———, d. Sept., 1802; m., 1st, ———, I. Till; m., 2nd, Jany. 11th, 1763, George Read. Had issue.
9. Catharine: b. ———, d. Dec., 1809; m. ———, Genl. William Thompson. Had issue.
10. Elizabeth: b. ———, d. ———; m. June 26th, 1761, Col. Edw. Biddle. Had issue.
11. Susanna: b. ———, d. ———; m. ———, Rev. William Thompson. Had issue.
12. Mary: b. ———, d. ———; m. Jany. 6th, 1763, Mark Bird. Had issue.
13. James: b. ———, d. ———; m. ——— Eleanor. Had issue.

George, Gertrude and Catharine, I am sure, were the children of Catharine Van Gezel, and I believe Elizabeth and Mary were, but I don't feel sure about either Susanna or James, although some information I have indicates they were. You will note the order in which I have placed the children of Joanna Williams, and, as this does not exactly agree with your views as expressed in your letter to Mr. Francis Nevile Reid, permit me to explain my reasons:

*First.* Mr. William T. Read, in his "Life of George Read," page 62, in referring to portrait No. 10, says: "John, son of Mr. Ross' *eldest son David.*"

*Second.* We know from records of Immanuel Church, John, son of Rev. George Ross, was baptized as an infant Oct. 21st, 1714, and that Aeneas was born Sept. 17th, 1716, an interval of less than two years, and it is, therefore, most unlikely a child was born between.

*Third.* David was the name of Rev. George Ross's father, and it is fair to presume he named his first son after him.

As to Margaret:

Her first husband, Walter Hackett, according to records of Immanuel Church, died March 7th, 1793, leaving her a widow with two children, and she must certainly at that time have been 20 years old, which would make her birth antedate John's.

Mr. Francis Nevile Reid, in one of his letters, gave the name of Rev. George Ross's mother as Margaret Stronack, so that he called his first daughter after his mother.

Dr. Jacob Ross:

Appears in the records of Immanuel Church, in 1758, as a vestryman, and, I conclude, must have been at this time well past his youth. Joanna Williams is said to have had a brother, Jacob, another reason for thinking Jacob her son.

Jacob Ross was a practicing physician as early as 1752. (See letter of Rev. George Ross to I. Till, "Life of George Read," p. 60.)

<sup>1</sup>VAN GEZEL ARMS—Azure three boys' heads affrontée proper, on the head of each a cap argent. Crest—A head as in the arms between two wings displayed azure.

Will you do me the favor to inform me what you think of my deductions and supply any dates, etc., you have which will assist in completing my record. I have now, I think, a complete list of the children of the following of the Rosses: John, George, Catharine and Elizabeth. I have children of Gertrude by George Read, but do not know if she had children by Till, her first husband, or not. I have an account of three children of James, one of Mary, one of Susanna, two of Margaret (without their names), four of Aeneas, one of David and two of Jacob. As to Anne, I know nothing beyond the fact she is said to have married John Yeates. This letter will give you some idea of the present condition of my work, and, if it contains any information not before in your possession, I am most happy to have been of some service.

Very sincerely yours,

EDMUND H. BELL.

To Gen. John Meredith Read, Paris, France.

#### ADDITIONAL PAPERS.

The appended document, in a handwriting unknown to the author, is to be found among the Read archives in the Ross book. It is inserted here, as there are many things of interest given in it:

[From Notes sent me by Gen. Read.]

Miss Katherine van Gezel, a descendant of Gerrit van Gezel, nephew of Governor Alrichs, who on the 1st March, 1657, embarked for New Amsterdam; 19th December, 1656, the Directors of the W. India Comp. transferred to the Burgomaster of Amsterdam all the land from Christian Creek to Bombay Hook.

The tracing of the signature of David Ross is from a family Bible published 1696.

In 1760 Honorable John Ross was one of the founders of St. Paul's church, Philadelphia, and is buried in it.

Mrs. Marcia G. Ross, widow of David Ross, grandson of Rev. George.

John Ross, son of Rev. George, was baptized October 21, 1714. (Register, Emmanuel Church, Newcastle, Delaware.)

Rev. George Ross was second son who grew up of David Ross of Balblair and Margaret his wife.

John Ross died May 5, 1776, aged 61; his wife, October 7, 1776, aged 62.

Catherine, wife of Captain Gurney, died August 27, 1782, aged 34.

Rev. David Ross, missionary of the Church of England, Albany, New York, died there; he had a son, John.

In the Register of Marriages, Emmanuel Church, appears the following: George Read, ———, 1763, to Gertrude, daughter of Rev. George Ross, by his second wife.

George Ross, the "Signer," had a son, Colonel James.

Rev. William Thomson, of Maryland, married a daughter of Mr. George Ross by his second wife.

Rev. Aeneas Ross, son of Rev. George Ross, was rector of the English church at Oxford, Pa.: was appointed rector of Emmanuel Church, Newcastle, in 1758, and died there in 1782.

QUERY ANSWERED.

QUERY — George Ross, who signed the Declaration of American Independence; wanted to know if he was married, and if so, did he leave any issue? Belber, John Bridges.

ANSWER — My mother was the granddaughter of George Ross, who married Ann Lawler, a Scotch lady. There is but one male descendant living of the name, my first cousin, George Ross, whose only son was killed in the late Southern Rebellion. His sister, Miss Mary Ross, a maiden, lady, is living in Philadelphia. The grandfather of George Ross was David Ross, of Ross-shire, in the North of Scotland, would like much to know if any of the Scotch branch of the Ross family are living.

(SIGNED) MRS. DAVID G. ESHLEMAN,  
Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

ANSWER — George Ross, one of the signers of the American Declaration of Independence, resided in Lancaster, Pa. According to Harris' Biographical History of Lancaster, Pa., he was married to Ann Lawler, who is said to have been a lady of most respectable family. One of the sons, George Ross, Junior, was, from 1788 to 1790, Vice-President of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania. Another son, James Ross, was an officer in the American Revolution and subsequently judge in Louisiana. The Ross family is now nearly extinct, being limited, I am informed, to a brother and sister, both unmarried, who reside in Philadelphia. There are several families in Lancaster who are descended from George Ross in the maternal line.

Lancaster, Pennsylvania,  
JOS. HENRY DUBBS, D. D.

HON. JOHN ROSS, ROYAL ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

Hon. John Ross was a son of Rev. George Ross by his first wife, Joanna Williams, of Rhode Island, and was thus half brother of George Ross, the "Signer." He was born at Newcastle, Del., in 1714, and died in Philadelphia, May 8, 1776. He was admitted to the bar in 1735, and rose so rapidly in his profession that in 1743 he was the chief rival of Alexander Hamilton before the Pennsylvania courts. In 1744 he engaged in the manufacture of pig iron in Berks county, his interest continuing in the business until his death. He took part in the organization of St. Paul's Episcopal church in 1760, and became its first warden. In 1759, with others, he was consulted by the governor and council in relation to a law for recording warrants and surveys, and thus render the title to real estate more secure.

Alexander Graydon says: "Mr. John Ross, who loved ease and Madeira much better than liberty and strife, declared for neutrality, saying that, 'let who would be king, he well knew that he should be subject.'"

John Adams, in his diary (September 25, 1775), speaks of him as "a lawyer of great eloquence and heretofore of extensive practice, a great Tory, but now they say beginning to be converted."

Hon. John Ross was a friend and correspondent of Benjamin Franklin, and an early member of the American Philosophical Society. His portrait

was in the possession of General Meredith Read, and now hangs in the drawing-room of the author's home. It represents him sitting in his library. He was a large man of florid complexion and vigorous constitution. This portrait, dated 1766, was by Alexander, who came to this country about the middle of the 18th century, and while at Newport, seeing there a youth, Gilbert Stuart, and finding him endowed with great talent, took him with him upon his southern tour during which this and other family portraits formerly in the possession of General Meredith Read were painted. There is also a most admirable portrait of Mrs. John Ross and one of her daughter Catherine, wife of Captain Henry Gurney of the British Army, all painted in the



HON. JOHN ROSS (1714-1776), Royal Attorney-General.

same year. One evidence of a great artist is the beautiful modeling of the hands, and in each of these portraits the hands are exquisitely painted. Mrs. Gurney is standing with her hand upon the keys of a spinnet, in a white court dress with a crimson mantle.

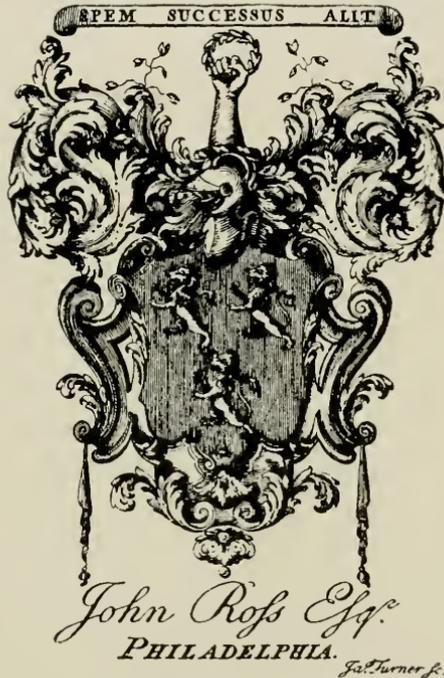
#### ENTRIES IN THE FAMILY BIBLE OF THE HON. JOHN ROSS.

Hon. John Ross's family Bible, which is still in existence, was published at Oxford by John Baskett, in 1727. It contains the following entries:

"Be it remembered that John Ross, Esq., of Phila, counsellor-at-law, son of the Rev. George Ross, Rector of the Church at NewCastle-on-Delaware, was solemnly married to Mrs. Elizabeth Morgan of Phila, eldest dau. to

Mr. Benjamin Morgan of Philadelphia, gentleman, on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of Dec. anno domini 1735, by the Rev. Mr. Archibald Cummings, Commissary and Rector of Christ Church, Phila. Their children were: Elizabeth Ross, b. 2 May 1740, d. 13<sup>th</sup> Aug. 1741. Margaret Ross, b. 25 May 1747, d. 20 Aug. 1766. Catherine Ross, b. 21 July 1748, d. 27 Aug. 1782. m. Henry Gurney, Esq., late Capt. in the British Army," who took part in the Seven Years' War.

The arms of Captain Gurney are also contained in the Bible: A paley of six or and az; crest, a lion's head erased or; in the centre an escutcheon

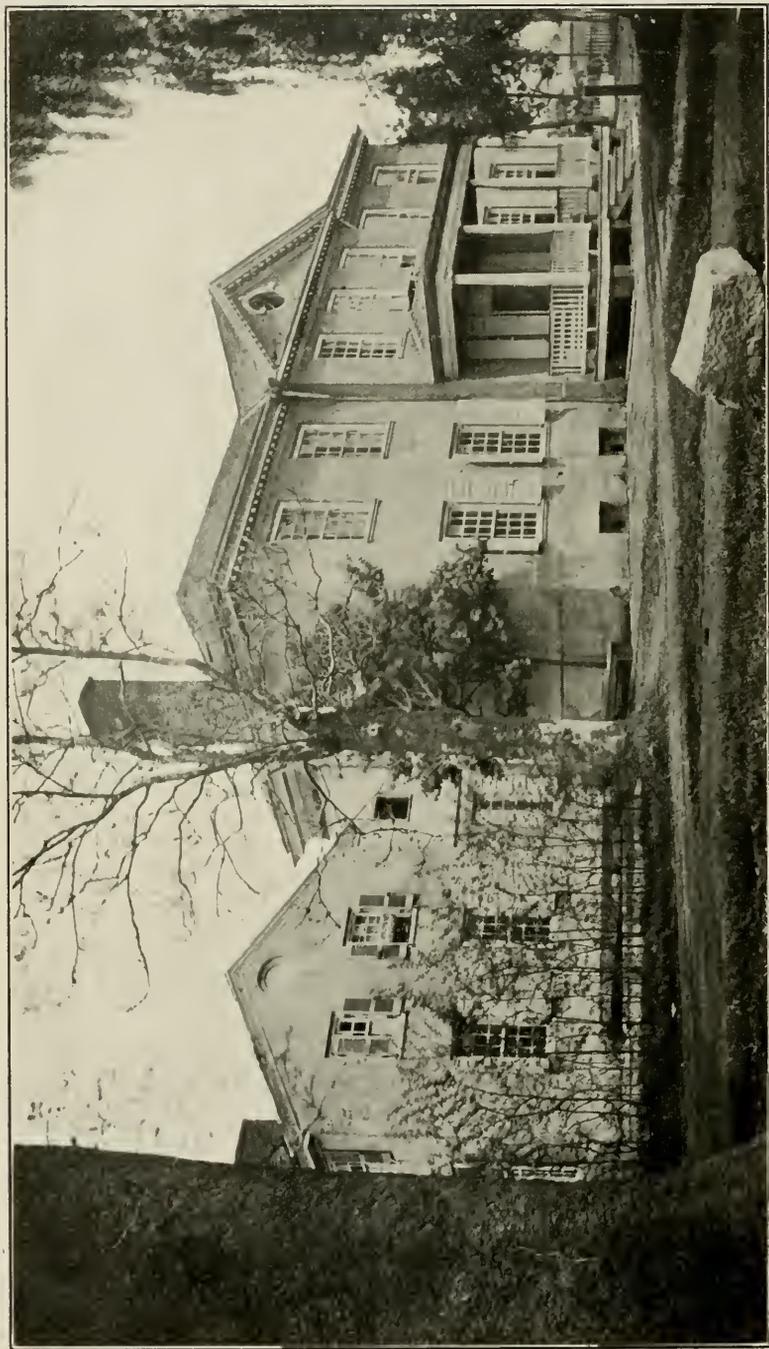


BOOKPLATE OF HON. JOHN ROSS (1714-1776),  
Royal Attorney-General.

of pretense, bearing the arms of his wife, Catherine Ross — Gules three lions rampant argent.

John Ross used the crest of Balnagown and the motto, "Spem Successus Alit," instead of the crest of Shandwick and Balblair — a lion rampant gules armed and langued sable, and the motto, "Nobilis Est Ira Leonis" — used by his own father and grandfather. No reason has ever been given for this unless it was that he regarded the Balnagown crest and motto older than that of Balblair. The original bookplate was made by J. Turner.

Mr. Ross had a large and valuable library, and each of his books contained one of these bookplates.



TUSCULUM.

The seat of Hon. John Ross (1714-1776), Royal Attorney-General.





ИЗДАНИЕ ПЕРВОЕ, ПЕРВОЕ ИЗДАНИЕ  
— ПЕРВОЕ ИЗДАНИЕ ПЕРВОЕ ИЗДАНИЕ

**DESCENDANTS OF GEORGE ROSS, THE "SIGNER."**

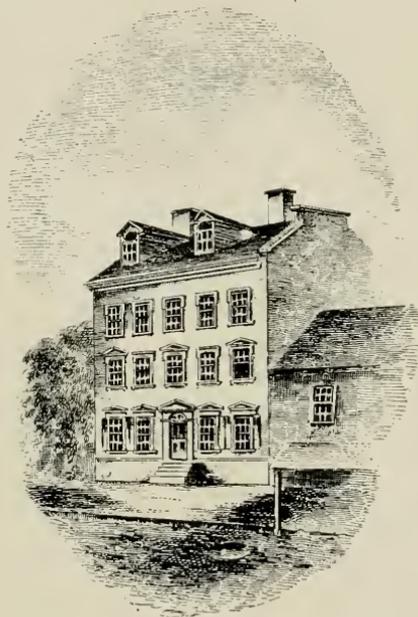
George Ross, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, was a son of Rev. George Ross by Catherine Van Gezel, his second wife. He was born in Newcastle, Del., in 1730, and died in Lancaster, Pa., in July, 1779. At the age of 18 he began the study of law, and on his admission to the bar, in 1751, settled at Lancaster. He was a member of the Pennsylvania Assembly in 1768-70, and was appointed by the convention that assembled, after the dissolution of the proprietary government, to prepare a declaration of rights. Mr. Ross was elected to the first General Congress at Philadelphia in 1774, and continued to represent his state until June, 1777. Owing to failing health, he resigned his seat in that year, on which occasion the citizens of Lancaster voted him a piece of plate worth £150, which he declined on the ground that "it was the duty of every man, especially of every representative of the people, to contribute by every means within his power to the welfare of his country without expecting pecuniary reward."

On first entering Congress Mr. Ross was appointed by the Legislature to report to that body a set of instructions by which his conduct and that of his colleagues were to be guided. He was among the foremost leaders in the Provincial Legislature in encouraging measures for the defense of Pennsylvania against British Aggression. In 1775, Governor Penn having written a message deprecating any defensive measures on the part of the colonies,

Mr. Ross drew up a forceful reply, and later was the author of the report urging vigorous action for putting Philadelphia in a posture of defense. He was appointed Judge of the Court of Admiralty for Pennsylvania, April 14, 1779, which post he filled until his death three months later.

Judge Ross possessed a benevolent disposition which often led him to espouse the cause of the Indians in their efforts to prevent the frauds practiced on them by the whites. As a lawyer he was early classed among the leaders of the profession, and as a judge he was learned, conscientious and upright, and remarkable for the celerity and rapidity with which he disposed of business.

George Ross, the "Signer," married Ann Lawler, a Scotch lady, by whom he had, according to the Ross Bible, three children. (See below.)



RESIDENCE OF HON. GEORGE ROSS, the  
"Signer," at Lancaster, Pa.

George Ross Eshleman, Esq., of Lancaster, Pa., a descendant in the female line of George Ross, the "Signer," who has in his possession the Ross family Bible, wrote as follows to the author and compiler, in answer to an inquiry as to the descendants of George Ross:

LANCASTER, PA., Aug. 19, 1907.

MY DEAR KINSMAN:

I have just returned from my summer outing and find that your letter has been awaiting my return for nearly two weeks. I enclose a genealogy of the descendants of George Ross, taken mainly from the Ross Bible, of which you can use as much as you care to. \* \* \*

I am, affectionately,

Your cousin,

GEORGE ROSS ESHLEMAN.

From the information given by Mr. Eshleman the following descent from George Ross, the "Signer," has been compiled, and is much more complete than that which had been prepared from data previously at hand:

DESCENDANTS OF GEORGE ROSS, THE "SIGNER."

COLONEL GEORGE ROSS, the "Signer," was a son of Rev. George Ross by his second wife, Catherine Van Gezel. He married Ann Lawler, a Scotch lady, and had—

1. George. (See below.)
2. James (born November 28, 1753; died in Louisiana, August 20, 1809, without issue).
3. Mary (born December 3, 1765; married James Wilson).
  1. George Ross (born June 1, 1752; died November 13, 1832) married Mary Bird (born December 23, 1754; died January 24, 1813), daughter of Colonel William Bird, of Birdsboro, Berks Co., Pa., April 3, 1773. They had nine children—
    4. Ann. (See below.)
    5. Patton (born March 13, 1778), married Elizabeth Witmer, June 15, 1805. No children.
    6. William Bird (born April 6, 1782; died February 13, 1828). Unmarried.

In the record of the Iowa Sons of the American Revolution, published in the "Year Book of the Societies Composed of Descendants of the Men of the Revolution" (1899), appears the following entry:

Huitt Ross, Stratford, Hamilton county—Great grandson of George Ross, of Delaware, Signer of the Declaration of Independence. On the maternal side, great grandson of Stephen Hopkins, of Rhode Island, Signer of the Declaration of Independence. Mr. Ross's grandfather, Huitt Ross, was wounded at the battle of Maumee, under "Mad" Anthony Wayne. His father, Thomas Ross, fought at Tippecanoe under General William Henry Harrison. He was himself with General Zachary Taylor at Palo Alto, Mexico, and Monterey; and then with General Winfield Scott at the capture of the City of Mexico, while a son marched with Sherman to the sea in the Sixteenth Iowa Regiment.

If this statement is correct, George Ross, the Signer, must have had a son Huitt. The Ross Bible, however, contains no mention of this son, and Mr. Eshleman does not include the name in his chart of George Ross' descendants, in which he makes the late Mary Elizabeth Ross, daughter of George W. Ross, the last descendant bearing the name of Ross, though he does state that George Ross, son of George W., left descendants in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, etc., but whether those descendants bore the name of Ross is uncertain.

7. Gertrude Read (born January 20, 1785; died May, 1786).
8. George Washington (See below.)
9. Thomas Ruffin (born November 12, 1791; died April 17, 1811).  
No children.
10. Robert Coleman (born December 20, 1793; died June 1, 1818).  
No children.
11. Caroline. (See below.)
12. Eliza Juliana. (See below.)
4. Ann Ross (born January 5, 1774; died December 9, 1816) married James Hopkins, June 21, 1791. They had —
  13. Washington.
  14. William.
  15. George.
  16. James M. (See below.)
  17. Ann. (See below.)
8. George Washington Ross (born April 24, 1788) married Mary Witmer, December, 1812. They had —
  18. George (born April 4, 1817). Left descendants in Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, etc.
  19. Mary Eliza (born March 31, 1814; died November 19, 1906). Last descendant of George Ross, the "Signer," of the name of Ross.
11. Caroline Ross (born February 15, 1796) married Samuel D. Orrick, May 31, 1821. They had —
  20. John Newton. (See below.)
  12. Eliza Juliana Ross (born October 25, 1797; died April 8, 1871) married Dr. Abraham Carpenter, a Lancaster physician, July 27, 1814. He died July 27, 1840. They had —
    21. Caroline Orrick. (See below.)
  16. James M. Hopkins was married and had —
    22. William.
    23. Henry C. (See below.)
  17. Ann Hopkins married Newton Lightner, Esq., of Lancaster, Pa. They had —
    24. James (unmarried), living at Lancaster.
  20. John Newton Orrick (born June 24, 1828) married Lizzie — and had —
    25. Caroline (unmarried), who lives in New York city.
  21. Caroline Orrick Carpenter (born November 5, 1828; died April 11, 1906) married David G. Eshleman, November 14, 1848. He died April 30, 1895. They had —
    26. Anna Julia. (See below.)
    27. Eliza Ross. (See below.)
    28. Harriette Borrows (born October 1, 1856), married E. C. Stimson, June 4, 1879, and now lives in Denver, Col. No children.
    29. George Ross (born September 30, 1864), married Elizabeth, daughter of S. S. Spencer, of Lancaster, Pa., June 1, 1893. No children.



HON. GEORGE ROSS, the "Signer" (1730-1779), from a portrait, painted at an early age, now in possession of Mrs. John H. Rodney, Newcastle, Del.

**23.** Henry C. Hopkins was one of a family of twelve children. He was married, and had —

**30.** Henry C., who had eleven children.

**31.** Ralph.

**32.** Isabel.

**26.** Anna Julia Eshleman (born October 20, 1849; died October 24, 1879), married John H. McMurdy, May 28, 1872. He died June 5, 1875. They had —

**33.** John H., who married Mary Frances Kaufman. No children.  
Address, 72 Broadway, New York city.

**27.** Eliza Ross Eshleman (born August 13, 1853), married Frank M. Taylor, November 28, 1876, and now lives in Denver, Col. They had —

**34.** David Paul (born April 7, 1881). Unmarried.

The following articles are in possession of George Ross Eshleman, Esq.: —  
Portraits of George Ross and Ann Ross, his wife, painted by Benjamin West.

Miniature of John Ross (brother of George Ross, the "Signer") and his daughter.

Solid silver tankard engraved with the Ross coat-of-arms.

Silver cream pitcher of George Ross, the "Signer."

Bible of George Ross, the "Signer," containing family records.

## GHOST STORY OF THE REVOLUTION.<sup>1</sup>

HON. JOHN ROSS WAS A STAUNCH TORY ALIVE OR DEAD.—WARNED ALL PATRIOTS TO REPENT.—DR. KEARSLEY'S WEIRD TALE OF THE ROYALIST'S WRAITH WHICH LEFT WITH HIM A DOCUMENT AND RING.—GHOSTLY MESSAGE.

**D**R. JOHN KEARSLEY was one of the most prominent Philadelphians of his day. He was a gentleman of large fortune and great learning. At the era of the Revolution, Dr. Kearsley, though otherwise a citizen of good character and standing, became exposed to the scoffs and insults of the people by his ardent loyalism. As he was naturally impetuous in his temper, he gave much umbrage to the Whigs of the day by his rash expressions. It was intended, therefore, to sober his feelings by the argument of tar and feathers. He was seized at his own door in Front street, a little below High street, Philadelphia, by a party of militia, and in his attempt to resist them received a bayonet wound in his hand. Mr. Graydon has told the sequel. He was forced into a cart, and amidst a multitude of boys and idlers, paraded through the streets to the tune of the "Rogue's March." The concourse brought him before the coffee house, where they halted, the doctor foaming with indignation and rage, without a hat, his wig dishevelled and himself bloody with his wounded hand, stood up in the cart and called for a bowl of punch—when so vehement was his thirst he swallowed it all before he took it from his lips. "I was shocked," says Graydon, "at the spectacle, thus to see a lately respectable citizen so vilified. It is grateful to add, however, that they proceeded to no further violence, thus proving that a Philadelphia mob has some sense of restraint. To prevent further injury, the leaders of the patriot cause in Philadelphia had him sentenced to be imprisoned for a limited time in the back counties of Pennsylvania for high crimes against his country.

Dr. Kearsley had as his most intimate friend one of the most noted lawyers in this country, for many years Royal Attorney-General, Hon. John Ross. Mr. Ross was a man of very large fortune for his day, and lived in very fine style. His country seat, Tusculum, was one of the most beautiful plate, his servants and liveries were noted. His wines and his dinners were believed to be the best in America. Dr. Kearsley was a frequent guest at the home of Mr. Ross, and on one of these occasions the two old friends had been talking of death and the next world, and they came to an agreement that the first to die would come back to this world and make himself known to the other to show that another world existed.

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<sup>1</sup>This story was printed in *The Argus*, Albany, N. Y., Sunday morning, March 20, 1904.—H. P. R.

## BACK FROM THE DEAD.

John Ross died before the Revolution closed in 1776. Much effort had been wasted to make him join the patriots, but all in vain, he stating that he well knew that no matter who was king he would always be the subject. On the night of the 20th of January, 1777, Dr. Kearsley saw his friend who had come back to him from the other world, but, perhaps, it will be just as well to let him tell his own story, which was found written in his own hand. The manuscript, much worn, tattered somewhat at its sides, and separated where creases were made by its folds, has been in the past much sought for, handled and read. This paper was the property of His Excellency, Governor Read, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a United States Senator, a Chief Justice and Governor of Delaware. George Read married a sister of Hon. John Ross and was naturally interested in the paper:

“For the Honourable, General William Thompson, on his plantation near Carlisle:

“Dear Sir.—Last Monday night, the 20th January, 1777, be it remembered, I went to bed at ten o'clock, and as is common with me to order the servant to cover up the unconsumed part of the fire with ashes, after I had seen it done. A little before day-break I was awakened by an extraordinary dream, viz., that I was in company with our old friend John Ross, lawyer. As it then made a great impression on my mind, it is easy for you to conceive the emotions I felt on the occasion, nor will you be surprised when I tell you I jumped directly out of bed, and by the gleaming light of my fire, which had forced its way into a small flame through the ashes, I distinctly saw his figure on which, without any fear, I looked with great earnestness. At this instant the fire burst forth into a blaze, inasmuch that I could see him very distinctly, with a paper in his hand, standing, in a speaking attitude, when he began and thus addressed me:

“My dear sir, you and I, in the state of body you are now in, ever lived in the greatest harmony and best friendship. I have been removed from you by the wise and kind providence of God, to a place of peace and everlasting felicity, while you are to remain some time in a world of trouble and great confusion, where you will hear of wars and rumors of wars, accompanied with pestilence, already begun, and famine which will ensue, and continue till your sins abate. These, my friend, are the scourges of sin, the vengeance of God poured forth on the American people for their ingratitude that superlative of sin which the Almighty always punishes.”

“Continued he: ‘Lest you should doubt the authority of what I now say, I pray you take this paper,’ which he held forth in his hand, ‘and to convince you that I have really made an appearance to you, behold my signature, the initials of my name and profession in your world. These are placed first to every line, and I leave them along with this my signet ring, well known to you in the past, cut with the three rampant lions of my family coat and the sign known to you that you may as my steward keep them as a sign and token to be shown to my friends, but particularly to General Thompson, whom I love, and wish to hint something not unlike to what with you is termed prophecy.’

“On thus speaking these words he disappeared, leaving the matter and ring behind him in my hand. In discharge of my duty to the above commission, and conceiving it also my duty to you to discharge so important a trust, I send you a copy and whenever you will do me the favor of a visit you may see the original. I will seal this letter with the ring which you will readily recognize as the one always worn on John Ross’ right hand. You will remember the stone, a Scotch chrysal, beautifully cut with the Ross coat of arms, and under, on the other side, a star formed of three

triangles with two circles inscribed with strange letters.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Ross had a strange story, you will recall, of this ring. It was brought from Scotland by his father, Rev. Mr. Ross, and was the parting gift of the latter's father, David Ross, of Balblair. It had belonged to one Hugh Ross<sup>2</sup> of Shandwick, who was a necromancer and wizard, notwithstanding his lairdship, in the fifteenth century. The star on the back was always known as the 'wizard foot.' I am, my dear sir, with many compliments to you and Mrs. Thompson and family, your very humble servant,

" JOHN KEARSLEY."

"A TRUE COPY."

" Inspired to leave with you my trusty friend  
 Old counsels, which I dare not wish to mend  
 Honor to you disgrace to Congress' laws  
 Nor can their terrors make you join their cause,  
 Nor yet their prisons make you love their laws.  
 Right well we lived when justice ruled the land  
 O know you're at the would-be-king's command.  
 Sent forth to fight as tyrants rule their slaves,  
 Still will Britain rule both land and waves  
 Lawyer I was, and Magna Charta knew  
 Averse to riot, studied to be true,  
 When just laws ceased heaven kindly gave her call  
 You have felt — I now foretell — so will all  
 Ever gracious Lord! Avert the dreadful stroke  
 Repent ye ingrates — nor your God provoke.

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<sup>1</sup>The under side of the ring had a five-pointed star in outline, as told in the above story, and the Hebrew letters were those forming the names of the spirits Ye Kahal and Aziel, known to the magicians and ancient Free Masons as the first Pentacle of Mercury, which controls the spirits which are under the firmament.

<sup>2</sup>This same Hugh Ross is said to have discovered much buried treasure one Sunday, between the 10th of July and the 20th of August, when the moon was in the sign of the lion. He went into a place which he had found by magical incantations, and with a magical sword described a circle of sufficient size to open the earth as the nature of the ground would allow. Three times during the day he burned incense in the hole, after which, clothed in a white silk garment, with mystic characters in red silk on the breast, and with white shoes on his feet. On his head was a gold crown, with the letters "Yod, He, Vau, He" on its front. Ross suspended, above the opening in the ground, a lamp whose oil was mingled with the fat of a man who had died in the month of July, and the wick was made from the cloth wherein he had been buried. Having kindled this with fresh fire, he fortified his ten workmen each with a girdle of the skin of a goat, newly slain, whereon was written with the blood of the dead man these words, "NOPA PADOUS." He then set the men to work, warning them not to be disturbed, but to work boldly, which they did. At the end of the second day their tools rang upon a huge metal-bound box of great age. They tried to lift the box, but in vain. The night had come, and looking down into the hole, lighted now by the overhanging lamp alone, he beheld the figure of a semi-luminous grey man, seated upon the lid of the box. Remembering himself, he said: "Adonai, Elohim El, Asher, Ehlieh, Existence of Existences, have mercy upon me! O ye good and happy spirits, depart in peace. Amen." As the last word was pronounced the old grey man arose, suddenly grew twenty feet high, and said: "I am that spirit Aziel, who guards the fortunes of your house; the treasure is yours; farewell," and disappeared.

"Agreeable to our many conversations about eternity that the first of us who died, if permitted, should visit the other, by the will of the Omnipotent who governs the universe, I am sent to comfort you, but also to redeem the land which is now overwhelmed with trouble, a sure consequence of sin and pride, a continuance in which will be a misery, destruction and death. Believe, O ye sinners, believe and repent! The sins of ingratitude, wilful and corrupt perjury, persecution and cruelty, with the sin of falsehood continually propagated to inflame and mislead the ignorant, has so provoked the vengeance of heaven that the Almighty is to come forth against you with a flaming sword to burn you up and cast you off; and I am risen from the dead to give you this last most solemn warning. Moses and the prophets have admonished former generations and some have believed and been saved. But if ye will not believe me when risen from the dead, horrid judgments will attend you. Death is but the continuation of the life on earth in another form and in another world.

"JOHN ROSS." [SEAL.]

#### GHOST'S LAST APPEARANCE.

General William Thompson was by birth an Irishman. He emigrated at an early period of the eighteenth century to Pennsylvania. He had received a good education and was descended from a respectable family. He settled on a plantation which he called "Soldiers' Retreat," near Carlisle, in Cumberland county, Pennsylvania. He was at first a surveyor; he then went into the war between France and England as a commissioned officer. He received a silver medal from the city of Philadelphia for distinguished services in this war. He became during the American Revolution one of the most patriotic and gallant officers in our army. He died on September 3, 1781.

The story is that ten days before his death, as he sat one evening before a table sealing a letter with the famous ring of John Ross that had been given to him by Dr. Kearsley, the candles suddenly became dim, and near the fireplace in which there was a fire, a smoke made itself felt, and all at once the form of John Ross became plain, but all he said was, "Fear not, for it is well with thee, thy time is near," and with that the figure moved to the table and caught up the ring that the general had dropped, and then faded away. The portrait of John Ross, Esq., painted by Alexander, the first master of Gilbert Stewart, is still in existence and represents a gentleman in the fashionable clothes of one hundred years ago, with a wig and lawn sleeves, seated in his library.

ANTIQUARIAN.

ALBANY, N. Y.

#### ANOTHER GHOST STORY.

In connection with Tusculum, the mansion of John Ross, there is a curious old servant's tale, which will bear repetition in these pages. The old woman, who was a trusted servant and had been in the family many years, is said to have seen the spectre of Mrs. Captain Gurney,<sup>1</sup> daughter of John Ross, one night some five years after her death. The servant had been left in

<sup>1</sup>GURNEY ARMS—Pale of six or and azure per fess countercharged. *Crest*—A lion's head erased or, gorged with a palisado coronet composed of spearheads azure on an esquire's helmet mantled gules doubled argent. (Captain Gurney.)

charge of the house, as the story goes, preparatory to its being sold. It was a dark, stormy night in the late autumn, and the old woman was fast asleep upstairs, the only other person in the house being an old retainer in the family who had been the gardener years before.

The servant was suddenly awakened by a loud crash down stairs. Believing the old retainer had fallen in some way, and thinking it strange that he should be awake at that hour of the night, she procured a light and went down stairs. To her great surprise she found the library illuminated and heard some one moving about in the room. As she entered the room, she nearly died of fright, for there in the old fiddle-backed chair Mr. Ross always



Mrs. HENRY GURNEY (1748-1782), neé Catherine Ross,  
daughter of Hon. John Ross (1714-1776).

used, sat her late mistress, Mrs. Gurney. In her hands she held a beautiful string of pearls and a magnificent jewel, in the shape of a cross, set with diamonds, swung from it. The wainscoted wall opposite her contained a large square hole, exposing an iron box, the lid of which had been wrenched off, and, falling to the floor, had caused the crash which had awakened the old woman. The box appeared to be filled with gold and jewels and costly rings.

Mrs. Gurney, who sat in the chair toying with the pearls, was dressed in white satin trimmed with coral. As the horrified servant started to rush from the room, the spectre turned and seemed to recognize the old woman. At this instant the lights were extinguished, and in the darkness of the hallway the old servant felt something sweep past her, open the front door and vanish.

The next morning the old woman went into the library in great fear and found the room in its usual condition. There was no hole in the wall, but at the foot of the chair in which the spectre of Mrs. Gurney had sat was the beautiful cross. On the back was engraved the Arms of Ross—the three well-known lions—and around the shield, in ancient Scotch, the words, “Fear not, for I am with you.” In the center was a long oval upon which was represented the Saviour and the Four Evangelists, in ancient enamel, and incrustated with diamonds. On the four branches of the cross were four angels, and the end of each branch was finished with a great pearl. A ring of gold and pearls served to attach it. This cross, which had never before been seen by any member of the family, was handed down by Mrs. Gurney’s descendants for a number of generations. The pearl necklace was never found, although the family had searched for it after Mrs. Gurney’s death.

The old servant lived many years after her ghostly experience, and only told the story on her death bed.

#### INTERESTING FAMILY INCIDENT.

About the year 1883, Mrs. Gillespie of Philadelphia, a great granddaughter of Benjamin Franklin, with whom General Meredith Read had long been acquainted, called upon General and Mrs. Meredith Read at their residence at Newport, in order to show them a ring with which is connected an interesting family incident. Margaret Ross, or Margarettta, as she is styled on her portrait, the daughter of the Hon. John Ross, Attorney General, and his wife née Elizabeth Morgan, was born on the 25th August, 1747. She was a beautiful and accomplished girl and an heiress. When she was eighteen years of age she was affianced to Richard Bache, who was born in Settle in the West Riding of Yorkshire, England, on the 12th September, 1737, and died 29th July, 1811. He was the brother of Theophylact Bache of New York, merchant, also born in Yorkshire, and who had gone to New York as early as 1751, was identified with the resistance to the Crown in 1765, and in 1770 was one of the Committee to carry out the resolutions of Non-Intercourse. In 1777 he was chosen fifth President of the New York Chamber of Commerce.

Richard Bache established himself in Philadelphia and accumulated a handsome fortune. Margaret Ross caught a severe cold at her father’s residence, Tusculum, which now forms a portion of the Episcopal Hospital, near Philadelphia, which the Ross fortune created, and this cold developed finally into a decline. Finding herself to be dying, the young girl sent for her friend Sally Franklin.—her intimate friend and the only daughter of Benjamin Franklin.—and also for her betrothed lover, Richard Bache. And when they came into her room she said, “Sally, I am about to die, and I wish you to marry Richard,” and taking their hands she joined them and made them promise to marry after her death. Her last instruction was to have a ring prepared of the finest workmanship, upon which was to be enamelled this inscription:

“Margaret Ross, ob. Aug. 20, 1766”

“Aged Nineteen”

And this ring was to be given to Sally Franklin upon her marriage, and to be ever afterwards worn by her. Richard Bache married Sally Franklin on the 3rd October of the following year, 1767. Franklin appointed him Secretary Comptroller and Register General to date from the 29th September, 1775, and this office he held until November, 1776, when he became Postmaster General and continued such until 1782. His wife, Sarah Franklin, was the chief of the patriotic band of ladies who made clothes for the half-clad soldiers and sought to mitigate their sufferings during the severe winter of 1780. She died on the 5th October, 1808, and bequeathed this ring to her daughter, from whom it came to her granddaughter Mrs. Gillespie who, during the Rebellion, rivalled her grandmother in her philanthropic labours on behalf of our soldiers during the Revolution.

Mrs. Gillespie wrote the following acrostic for General Meredith Read :

**M**aiden, whose bones have crumbled long ago,  
**A**bove thy tomb we bend, yet not in woe;  
**R**egrets we have none, that an early call  
**G**rim Death made thee. He comes for all.  
**A**nd taking thee, he left us cause for mirth;  
**R**eaching far back, aye, even from our birth,  
**E**ach one of us was called for, though, finally,  
 'Twas that which made us flesh and blood with Sally.  
**R**equiems we sing not, for they're rather dull;  
**O**des we will write, with praises ever full;  
**S**onnets and verses to that name we'll pen;  
**S**ally's our grandma; she, the child of Ben.

NEWPORT, *August 20th, 1883.*

## DESCENT FROM THE ROYAL HOUSE OF SCOTLAND.

THESE can scarcely be a question that the Rosses of Balnagown, Shandwick, Balmachy and Balblair, from whom descended the American families of Ross and Read, were direct descendants of the Royal house of Scotland. If there were no other evidence to substantiate this, the fact that the arms of the Earls of Ross (gules three lions rampant, within a tressure argent) were taken from the shield of the King himself (which was or and the tressure gules, and displayed one lion rampant), to show that they were children of the Royal lion or Royal house, would unerringly point to a royal connection. The Lairds of Balnagown dropped the tressure and retained the three Royal lions as proof of their Royal descent.

George Crawford, historiographer of Scotland, in his early account of the Earls of Ross, recorded the fact that Hugh Ross of Rarichies, first Laird of Balnagown, was the son of Hugh, fifth Earl of Ross, and Lady Maud Bruce, sister of Robert II, thus establishing the connection between Balnagown and the royal house. This view was later accepted by Rev. Compton Reade in his "Record of the Redes," who also added the statement that another connection with the royal house was formed by the marriage of Hugh Ross, fourth Laird of Balnagown, and Janet, daughter of the Earl of Sutherland by Helen Sinclair, a direct descendant of King Robert II.

Mr. Francis Nevile Reid, however, in his very full account of the Earls of Ross, makes the assertion that Hugh of Rarichies was the son of Hugh, fifth Earl of Ross, and his *second* wife, Margaret, daughter of Sir David Graham. If this were true, it is necessary to look elsewhere for a royal connection. As to the marriage of Hugh, fourth of Balnagown, and Janet, daughter of the Earl of Sutherland, Mr. Reid says that "it is said" to have occurred, but that "at Dunrobin there is no trace of this lady or of the marriage of Hugh Ross."

Francis Nevile Reid's account having been given in full, it is deemed only fair that the pedigree by Rev. Compton Reade should be reproduced in these pages. I am inclined to believe that Mr. Nevile Reid is right, inasmuch as he made a life-study of the subject and expended a greater amount of energy and money in getting the descent correct than any other person. I must add, however, that my great-grandfather, Hon. John Read, who was a lawyer of eminence, a learned man, and a writer of note, as well as a banker of distinguished ability, always believed in the direct royal descent, and that my father, General J. Meredith Read, believed in it also.

The pedigrees given by Compton Reade are as follows:



The Hon. JOHN READ, Senator, etc. = MARTHA, daughter of General Samuel Meredith, Treasurer of the United States of America.

The Hon. JOHN MEREDITH READ, Attorney General, and Chief Justice of Pennsylvania = PRISCILLA, daughter of the Hon. J. Marshall, of Boston, U.S.A.

General JOHN MEREDITH READ, who = DELPHINE MARIE, daughter of Harmon Pumpelly, Esq., of Albany.

**A FURTHER DESCENT FROM THE ROYAL HOUSE OF SCOTLAND.**

ROBERT BRUCE (2nd in the preceding table) = as his first wife ELIZABETH, daughter of Sir Adam Mure, of Rowallan.

EGIDIA BRUCE = Sir WILLIAM DOUGLAS, of Nithsdale.

EGIDIA DOUGLAS = HENRY SINCLAIR, second Earl of Orkney.

HELEN SINCLAIR = GORDON, Earl of Sutherland.

JANET GORDON = HUGH ROSS II., Baron of Rarichies (see preceding descent), direct lineal ancestor of the late General John Meredith Read.

ARMS OF ROSS.—Gules, three lions rampant argent. Crest.—A lion rampant gules. Motto.—Nobilis est ira leonis.

## VAN GEZEL FAMILY.

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CATHARINE VAN GEZEL, of New Castle, who married, as second wife, Rev. George Ross, was a direct descendant of Gerrit van Gezel, who was the nephew and secretary of Jacob Alrichs, who was appointed the first Dutch Governor, or Vice Director, of Delaware, then recently named Nieuw Amstel. Governor Alrichs was also an uncle of Beck, the Vice Director at Curacoa. Vice Director Alrichs arrived in the Delaware, then called the South River, April 21, 1657, and Governor Stuyvesant, in obedience to the orders of the Dutch West India Company, formally transferred to Governor Alrichs the "Fort of Casimir, now named New Amstel, with all the lands dependent on it, in conformity with our purchase from and transfer by the natives, to us on the 19 July, 1651." Upon his arrival at Fort Casimir, Alrichs received from Vice Director John Paul Jerequet a surrender of his authority, and the Colony of New Amstel was formally organized. During the few months of Alrichs' directorship New Amstel prospered. The municipal government was remodelled, the town was laid out, buildings were rapidly erected, including a town hall; a bridge was placed over the creek near Fort Casimir, a magazine was constructed, the fort repaired, a guardhouse, bakehouse and forge built, together with residences for the clergymen and other public officers; industry promised success and thirty families were tempted to emigrate from Manhattan to the flourishing colony on South River. But disease and famine set in in 1659, and the heat of the summer enfeebled the unacclimated survivors. The wife of Alrichs was one of the victims. In the midst of these troubles Vice Director Alrichs died, having entrusted the government to Alexander d'Hinoyossa, with Gerrit van Sweringen and Cornelius van Gezel as Councillors.

There are two references to persons named van Gezel in a volume entitled "Annals of Pennsylvania from the Discovery of the Delaware," by Samuel Hazard, which, it is understood, covers the period from 1609 to 1682. On page 299 Gerit van Gezel is referred to as Secretary of New Amstel; and on page 301 it is stated that Cornelius van Gezel was removed from office as Councillor in New Amstel. A note refers to Volume XVII, Albany Records, page 142.

The van Gezel family is of Dutch origin. The earliest reference to members of the New Castle family is believed at this time to be that among Records of the Dutch Reformed Church of New York. Among the records of marriages, as published in the New York Biographical and Genealogical Record, Vol. VIII, page 40, is found that of Jacob van Gezel, j. m. (that is young man or bachelor) from New Castle and Geertruydt Reyniers, j. d. (that is young woman or spinster) of New York. The bans or other notice appear to have been given on April 13, 1688, the celebration of the marriage following on May 9, 1688. In the records of baptisms of the same church

(See Vol. XI, page 138, N. Y. G. & B. Record) it appears that Anna Catharina, daughter of Jacob van Gezel and Geertruydt Reyniers, was baptized October 20, 1689, the witnesses being Reynier Williams, Hendrick Boelen and Femmetje Kock. Also that Cornelius, son of Jacob van Gezel and Geertruydt Reyniers, was baptized May 26, 1691, the witnesses being Adolph Pieterzen and Christiana de Honnem.

In the parish register of the parish of North Sassafras or Saint Stephens in Cecil County, Maryland, it is recorded that Rynerius van Gezel, son of Jacob van Gezel and Gertrug his wife, was born December 16, 1696, and was baptized December 10, 1697. (See copy of Register at Md. Hist. Society, Baltimore, page 56.)

A number of original papers, deeds, leases, &c. which refer to members of the van Gezel family are in the possession of Mrs. John Rodney of New Castle, who is descended from the Rev. George Ross and Catharine van Gezel, his wife. Among these papers is a deed from John Hogg to Cornelius van Gezel dated June 7, 1715, and it is thus quite plain that the family were living there prior to that time. Indeed the marriage notice of 1688 describes Jacob van Gezell as of New Castle, but the baptism of two children in New York some years later may indicate that after his marriage Jacob settled in New York. On the other hand, he may have merely taken his children there to be baptized in the church of his own or his wife's faith. There is also a confirmatory deed from John Hogg to Gertrude van Gezell dated November 17, 1718, which refers to the will of Cornelius van Gezell as dated November 8, 1717, and as devising a certain lot to his mother Gertrude van Gezell for life, with remainder to his brother John van Gezell and his sister Catharine. There is also a lease of February 8, 1730, from Rev. Geo. Ross of New Castle to Gertrug van Gezell, widow. This paper was signed by George Ross and also by Gertrug Vangezell, and opposite the signature of each is a seal in wax bearing the impression of a coat-of-arms. The same seal was used for both Mr. Ross and Mrs. van Gezell, and the device was a shield in the upper portion of which two rather long-legged birds are standing. The lower two-thirds of the seal has across it a band or "bend." The crest rests on a helmet and is an arm bowed at the elbow and in armor, the hand grasping something which cannot be deciphered. This device is not that of the Ross family or of the Van Gezel family, but may have been that of Gertrude's own family, Reyniers. There is also a deed of release of March 30, 1730, from George Ross and Catherine his wife, late Catharine Vangezell. There is an indenture from George Ross, gentleman, and Catharine his wife, and John Vangezell, saddler, and Mary his wife, of the one part, and Gertrude Vangezell, widow, of the other part. This paper was signed by George Ross, Ann Catharine Ross, John van Gezell and Mary van Gezel. There is also an abstract of the title to a certain lot evidently prepared by legal counsel. In it reference is made to the will of George Ross as devising the lot to Jacob Ross, a younger son by his wife Catharine. It also refers to an indenture of May 22, 1755, in which George Ross is referred to as the eldest son of George Ross by his wife Catharine. Some of these very interesting papers have apparently not been recorded, but the deed from John Hogg to Cornelius and the confirmatory deed seem to have been recorded

in New Castle in Liber E. D. &c. folio 247, in which particular office seems not quite clear. It seems probable that the will of Cornelius and that of George Ross are of record in New Castle, and possibly an examination of the land records and records of wills there might establish some interesting circumstances.

The records of Immanuel Church, New Castle, show that among the Church Wardens were: William Read 1720-1731, and John Vangezell, 1745-1762. Another entry records the burial of Gertrude van Gezell on March 27, 1810, without any statement to identify her with the earlier members of the family.

From the above records and memoranda the following statement is made:

Jacob van Gezel of New Castle and Gertrude Reyniers of New York were married on May 9, 1688 at the Dutch Reformed Church of New York. Jacob probably died prior to 1717 when Cornelius devised a lot to his mother and his brother and sister. Gertrude was living as late as March 31, 1730, when Rev. George Ross leased a lot in New Castle to her. They had children, as follows:

A. Anna Catharine, baptized at Dutch Reformed Church October 20, 1689. Anna Catharine married the Rev. George Ross, the first Rector of Immanuel Church, New Castle, Delaware, being his second wife. They had children, as follows:

1. George Ross.
2. Gertrude, who married I. Till and second George Read.
3. Catharine, who married Gen. William Thompson of Penn.
4. Elizabeth, who married Col. Edw. Biddle of Phila.
5. Susanna, who married Rev. William Thomson, rector of St. Stephen's Church, Cecil County, Maryland. (He was a son of the Rev. Samuel Thomson and a cousin of Gen. William Thompson who married Catharine Ross (3).

They had a large family, among them a daughter, Mary, who married Dr. Thomas B. Veazey of "Essex Lodge," Cecil County, Md.

6. Mary, who married Mark Bird of Birdsboro.
7. James.
8. Jacob. Whether Jacob was in fact the youngest child is not plain.

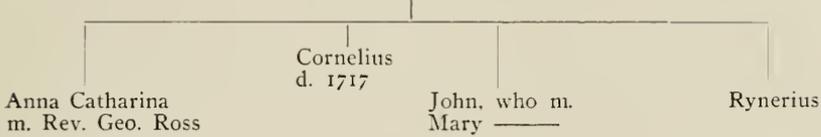
It is supposed he was Dr. Jacob Ross of New Castle.

B. Cornelius van Gezell, baptized at Dutch Reformed Church, May 26, 1691. His will is dated November 8, 1717, and, as he devised certain property to his mother and brother and sister, it seems probable that he died unmarried or without children.

C. John van Gezell. Married Mary ——— Was living March 30, 1730. There is no further positive record now known of John but it seems quite probable that he was Church Warden of Immanuel Church 1745 to 1762.

D. Rynerius, born December 16, 1696, baptized at St. Stephen's Church, Cecil County, Md., December 10, 1697.

Jacob van Gezel and Gertrude Reyniers  
 Married May 9, 1688.



**WILL OF JOHN VAN GEZELL.**

In the name of God Amen I John Vangezell of the Town and County of New Castle on Delaware Shopkeeper being in health and sound in mind and understanding (praised be God therefor) duly considering that it is appointed for all men to die and being mindful thereof Do make this my last Will and Testament as followeth. First I Commend my soul to Almighty God my Creator hoping for free pardon and Remission of my sins and to enjoy everlasting happiness through the merits of Jesus Christ my Saviour. My body I commit to the Earth at the discretion of my Executor and as to my temporal Estate I dispose of the same as followeth.

First I will that all my lawful Debts be paid by my Executor out of that part of my Estate hereinafter devised and bequeathed to him, it being my Intention and desire that no part of what shall be herein devised and bequeathed to my Daughter Gertrude be chargeable with any of them untill the whole which shall be hereby devised to my Executor if necessary be first Applied. Then I give and devise to my said Daughter Gertrude Vangezell all that my present dwelling house and Appurtenances in the front street of said Town of New Castle with the lot of Ground thereunto belonging to wit bounded South Easterly by the said front street Southwesterly by my lot purchased of George Read formerly belonging to Hon'ble James Hamilton North Westerly by the lot late of Sarah Janvier deced and North Easterly by the lot of Richard McWilliam. Also all that my front lot of Meadow Ground on the North West side of the Black Street of the said Town heretofore called Beaver Street and bounded South Easterly by the same street South Westerly by the lot of George Monro North Westerly by the centre of the old Bank dividing this from my Back Meadow Lot hereafter devised to my Executor and North Easterly with the Great Road leading from New Castle to Christiana Bridge to hold to my said Daughter Gertrude her heirs and Assigns forever. Then I also give and devise unto my said Daughter Gertrude all my Brick Messuage situate on the South Westerly side of the Thwart or Market Street in the Town of New Castle also adjoining the Brick Messuage late of the widow Blackburn deced with the Lot thereto belonging including therein A Moiety of the Ground between this devised Messuage and my frame Messuage to the Eastward thereof and that Breath from the Thwart Street to the South Westerly bound of both Lots with its apputenances to hold to my said Daughter Gertrude during her natural life and after to my Grandson John Vangezell son of Benjamin to him his Heirs and Assigns forever. Then I also give and bequeath to my said Daughter Gertrude in absolute Property to be by her taken and retained without the usual form or Right of Assent by my Executor the

following part of my Personal Estate that is to say One Bed bolster and Pillows with Winter and Summer Covering therefor a Beadstead Curtains and there furniture half a dozen of my best chairs A looking Glass dressing Table, Dining Table Tea Table all of which my said Daughter is to have the liberty of making choice off together A pair of hand irons Shovel and Tongs, Also one pair of high chest of Drawers in the front Chamber my Silver Cane Cream Pot all my Table and Tea Spoons China and Delf Ware all my Sheeting Table Linnen and Napkins and all my Kitchen Furniture including therein all Pewter Knives and Forks etc.

Then I give and devise unto George Read of the Town of New Castle Gent. as my Executor for the payment of all lawful Debts against me or my estate that is to say all those my two Messuages on the South Easterly Side of the Said front Street in the Town of New Castle also with my several Lots on that side of the same street extending into the River Delaware bounded North Easterly by the House and Lot of George Ross deced and South Westerly by the Thwart Street—And all that my frame Messuage on the South Westerly side of the Thwart Street with the lot thereto belonging including therein A Moity of the Ground between this frame Messuage and the Brick Messuage herein before devised to my Daughter to the Westward and extending that division of the intermediate Ground from the Thwart Street to the South Westerly bounds of both Lots. And also all that my back Lot of Meadow Ground bounded North Easterly by the Great Road leading from New Castle to Christiana Bridge South Easterly by the Centre of the old Bank dividing this from my front Meadow Lot herein before devised to my Daughter South Westerly by the Lot of George Monro and North Westerly by the Orchard Lot of Richard McWilliam deced and also all that Lot of Ground not heretofor Conveyed by me purchased by me of the said George Read as also Situate on the North Easterly Side of the Thwart Street and North Westerly Side of the front Street and all other my Estate Real and personal whatsoever and wheresoever not hereinbefor mentioned and devised to hold to him the said George Read his Heirs and Assigns for the express Purpose of Selling and disposing of all my Right and Interest therein or in any part to Enable my said Executor to satisfy and discharge Debts as also Willing and Authorizing the sale thereof in the whole or in such Parts & allotments and in such manner as my said Executor in his discretion shall think fit and to the interest that my said Executor may not be discharged from undertaking the Trust I will that he shall be saved harmless and indemnified out of my Estate of and from all Damages and Expenses which shall or may happen or come to him for or by reason of his taking upon him the Execution of this will and I devise that he be allowed all Reasonable Commissions Costs and Charges and thereafter in Case of any Residue Remaining with my Executor I give devise and bequeath the same equally between my said Daughter Gertrude and my son Benjamin Vangezell their respective Heirs and Assigns.

And whereas it may so happen through Casualties or otherwise that the part of my Estate which I have befor especially devised to my Executor may not produce sufficient for the purpose there mentioned in such case

I do hereby will and Authorize my Executor to sell and dispose of such part of my Estate before devised to my Daughter and Grandson or either of them as he shall find necessary to pay Debts with that, that it is my meaning and desire that the small Brick Messuage on the South Westerly Side of Thwart Street Adjoining the Widw Blackburns be first disposed off and applied and in Case of any Residue in the Sales under this last Authority to my Executor I devise the same to my Daughter Gertrude solely and absolutely. And lastly I do hereby Nominate Constitute and appoint the said George Read Executor of this my last will and in case of his death or other disability I do hereby Nominate Constitute and appoint Mr. Curtis Clay of the City of Philadelphia Merchant Sole Executor of this will giving and granting unto him the like Powers of Selling and Conveying and afterwards of Applying the monnies arising therefrom as are herein before given and intrusted to the said George Read and I do revoke and make void all former and other Wills and Testaments by me at any time or times heretofore made and do declare this to be my last Will and Testament. In Witness whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal this second day of March in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and eighty three.

J. N. VANGEZELL (L. S.)

Signed sealed and published by the before named John Vangezell as and for his last Will and Testament in the presence of us who subscribed our names thereto As witnesses at his request and in his presence.

JOHN READ.

ROSS THOMSON.

Personally appeared John Read one of the Subscribing evidences to the within and foregoing will and being duly sworn doth say that he did see and hear John van Gezell sign seal publish pronounce and declare the within and foregoing Instrument of writing as his last Will and Testament that at the time of his so doing and saying he was (to the best of his belief) of sound and disposing mind and memory that he did sign his name as an evidence thereunto at his Request. In his presence and in the Presence of Ross Thomson Esquire whom he did see sign as one other evidence at the same time. In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand at New Castle this 4th day of June Anno Domini 1787.

<sup>1</sup>GUN. BEDFORD, REGR.

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<sup>1</sup>Gunning Bedford was a son-in-law of Colonel John Read (1688-1756), of Delaware, having married his only daughter, Mary, and was brother-in-law of Hon. George Read, the "Signer," named above as executor of John Van Gezell.

## BETSEY ROSS AND THE AMERICAN FLAG.

ELIZABETH ROSS, better known as Betsey, was born in Philadelphia, Pa., January 1, 1752, and was the daughter of Samuel and Rebecca Griscom. Her father, a member of the Society of Friends, was a noted builder, having assisted in the erection of Independence Hall. Skilful with her needle, she was fond of embroidery and other artistic and delicate work, and after her marriage to John Ross in 1773, who was a son of the Rev. Aneas Ross, assistant rector of Christ Church, and a nephew of Col. George Ross, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a grandson of Rev. Geo. Ross, of New Castle, Del., they went into the upholstery business, which they conducted until January, 1776, when John Ross died from an injury received while guarding military stores. The young widow continued the business alone. When Congress appointed a committee to design a suitable flag for the nation in June, 1776, on which was Col. Geo. Ross, General Washington and Robert Morris, the committee, at the suggestion of Colonel Ross, went to her shop, at No. 239 Arch street, and engaged her to make the flag from a design drawn up by Washington and Colonel Ross, who was learned in the science of Heraldry. The drawing represented the outlines of a flag of thirteen stripes with a center or union dotted with thirteen six-pointed stars. Mrs. Ross suggested changing the stars from six points to five points, because one would cut them out so much easier, illustrating this by deftly folding a bit of paper, and with a single snip of her scissors producing the star. The sample flag made by her was accepted by the committee and adopted by Congress June 14, 1777. After this she received the contract to make all government flags and held it many years, her daughter, Mrs. Clarissa Wilson, continuing the business until 1857. Mrs. Ross was afterwards married to Captain Ashburn, and for the third time to John Claypole. She died in Philadelphia, Pa., January 30, 1836.

In connection with Mrs. Ross' making the first official flag of the United States it may not be uninteresting to give a few facts about the origin of the most beautiful flag in the world. The first striped flag used by the Americans was that used at Washington's headquarters at Cambridge, Mass., January 2, 1776. General Washington says of it: "We hoisted the Union flag in compliment to the United Colonies and saluted it with thirteen guns." This flag had thirteen stripes, alternate red and white, with the united crosses of St. George and St. Andrew on a blue field, the cross of St. George fimbriated to represent the original white field of the flag of St. George. It is said that Paul Jones first hoisted the flag of America in 1775; this is about two years before the Congress, in session at Philadelphia, resolved "that the flag of the thirteen United States be thirteen stripes, alternate red and white; the union to be thirteen stars on a blue field, representing a new

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Descent of the American Family  
of Read.

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## ANCIENT AND HISTORIC FAMILY OF READ OF DELAWARE.

THE first ancestor in this country was Colonel John Read, a wealthy and public-spirited Southern planter, who was born in Dublin January 15, 1688, of English parentage, in the last year of the reign of James the Second. His mother was the scion of an old Oxfordshire house, and his father, an English gentleman of large fortune, then residing in Dublin, was fifth in descent from Thomas Read, lord of the manors of Barton and Beedon, in Berkshire, and high sheriff of Berks in 1581, and tenth in descent from Edward Read, lord of the manor of Beedon, and high sheriff of Berks in 1439 and again in 1451. One of the latter's brothers, William Read, six times mayor of Reading, was member of Parliament for Reading in 1453, 1460, 1462 and 1472. An older brother, Sir Thomas Read, was one of the knights who accompanied King Henry the Sixth when he held his Parliament at Reading in 1439, and they were all sons of Thomas Read, lord of various manors in Northumberland.

In the civil wars of the seventeenth century, says Mr. Charles Reade, the family declared for the crown, and its then chief, Sir Compton Read, was for his services one of the first baronets created by Charles the Second after the Restoration. A younger son of the family went over to Ireland in the same troubles, and it was his son who was the progenitor of the American house. Besides the baronetcy of the 4th March, 1660, an earlier one had been conferred upon Sir John Read on the 16th March, 1641. Through a clerical error in one of the patents an *e* was added to the name, and was subsequently adopted by the English branches. The historical American branch retained the ancient form which the name had when it left England, and it figures thus on the petition to the King of the Congress of 1774, the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and many other earlier and later State papers.<sup>1</sup>

"Colonel John Read," says Scharf in his "History of Delaware," had a romantic history. He fell in love at an early age in the old country with his cousin, a beautiful and accomplished girl, who died suddenly before their engagement ended in marriage. This shock so overcame the lover that, after struggling in vain against his melancholy amidst familiar scenes, he determined, in spite of the earnest opposition of his parents, to seek relief in entire change. Crossing the ocean to Maryland, he purchased lands in several counties in that province, to which he added others in Delaware and Virginia. On his home plantation in Cecil county, Maryland, where his eldest son George was born, he possessed a spacious brick mansion, subse-

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<sup>1</sup>"Read Archives and Muniments," "Burke's Peccage under Reade olim Read, Bart," "Burke's General Armory," "Charles Reade's Sketch of his Kinsman, Chief Justice John Meredith Read, of Pennsylvania," published in *The Graphic*, London, March 6, 1875; republished in *Magazine of American History*, March, 1886.

quently destroyed by fire, with outbuildings and offices and comfortable quarters for his slaves, whom he treated with an unvarying humanity which became hereditary in his family. Groves of oak grew near the house, and tulips of great rarity bloomed in the gardens. Jim was the head of his house servants, as Juba was the head of those in the next generation. The product of the wheat and tobacco plantations were dispatched to Philadelphia and to England, and found their way back in various attractive and practical shapes for the use of the household. He was fond of field sports, and the woods rang with the sound of his dogs and his guns. He was both hospitable and generous. He gave all the land to endow the churches in his vicinity, both in Maryland and Delaware, and his life was honorable in all its



EARLY ENGLISH SILVER TANKARD which belonged to  
Colonel John Read (1688-1756).

relations. Being largely interested in various enterprises, he joined a few other gentlemen in founding the city of Charlestown, at the head-waters of the Chesapeake Bay, twelve years after Baltimore was begun, hoping to make it a great commercial mart to absorb Northern trade, to develop Northern Maryland, and to give a suitable impetus and outlet to the adjoining forges and furnaces of the Principio Company, in which his friends, the elder generations of the Washington family, and eventually General Washington himself, were deeply interested. Tradition preserves in this connection an account of the youthful Major Washington's visit to Colonel Read at the close of the latter's active and well-spent life."

As one of the original proprietors of Charlestown, John Read was appointed by the Colonial Legislature one of the commissioners to lay out and govern the new town, and he was assiduous in his attentions to these

duties. In the course of his active career he held several military commissions, and in the latter part of his life he resided on his plantation in Newcastle county, Delaware, where he died June 15, 1756, in the 69th year of his age, and was buried in Newcastle county.

Colonel John Read signed his will on the day of his death (June 15, 1756), as is mentioned in an indenture some 35 years later, for the original will was carried away by the British army with many of the public records of Newcastle county.

Among his estates in Maryland was one called Kinsley, which he purchased February 2, 1742, from Jacob Rogers, of London, clerk, who purchased this manorial grant from Lord Baltimore, Nov. 20, 1735. He owned several other plantations in Cecil county, one of which he called Reads, which he purchased February 9, 1755.

Colonel Read embodied the characteristics which have distinguished the Read family for many centuries — piety, severe integrity, devotion to friends, courtly and fascinating manners. In figure he resembled his English ancestors, being fuller in form than the majority of his American descendants. He was a remarkably handsome man, six feet in height, with a ruddy complexion and dark, expressive eyes, and was noted for his physical strength. Adorned by all the Christian virtues and bequeathing to his descendants the traditions of a well ordered life, he was the fitting progenitor of an illustrious line of statesmen, jurists, soldiers, sailors, and divines. He was the father of six

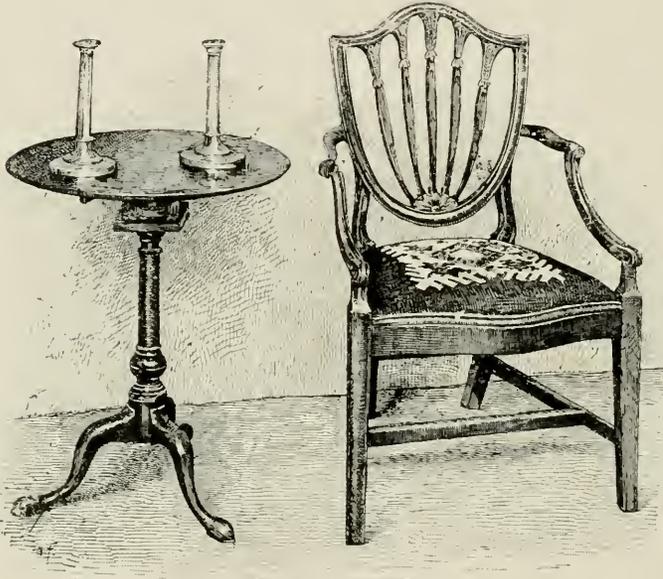
sons and one daughter, who, by paternal descent, were of English origin, and by maternal ancestry of Welsh blood. Three of the sons afterward were numbered among the founders and fathers of the United States — George Read, the "Signer;" Commodore Thomas Read and Colonel James Read. There are two portraits of Colonel John Read. One represents him in his youth before he left the old country, and in the striking costume of the reign of Queen Anne. The other depicts him in middle life, in the wig and dress of the time of George II.

After a long period of single life his early sorrow was consoled by his marriage with Mary Howell, a charming young Welsh gentlewoman, many



GRAVESTONE OF COLONEL JOHN READ (1688-1756), in the Presbyterian churchyard at Christiana, Del.

years his junior, who was as energetic and spirited as she was attractive and handsome. She was a descendant of the Howells, of Caerleon, County Monmouth, but her immediate ancestors were seated in the neighborhood of Caerphilly, Glamorganshire, Wales, where she was born in 1711, and whence, at a tender age, she removed with her parents to Delaware, where her father was a large planter, and her uncle was one of the founders of Newark, his name appearing in the original charter. Twenty-three years younger than her husband, Mrs. Read survived him nearly thirty years. Beautiful in person, loyal and pious in all her acts, she possessed rare qualities of mind and heart. Like her husband, she had great powers of char-



READING TABLE, SILVER CANDLESTICKS AND CHAIR of Colonel John Read (1688-1756).

acter, and ruled her establishment after his death with a firm yet benignant sway. She died at her seat in Newcastle county, Delaware, September 22, 1784. Mrs. Read's nephew, Colonel Richard Howell, was a distinguished Revolutionary officer, and for eight years Governor of New Jersey. He was the ancestor of Chief Justice Agnew, of Pennsylvania; of Verina Howell, wife of Jefferson Davis, President of the Southern Confederacy, and of Rear Admiral John Cumming Howell, of the United States Navy, who distinguished himself in the War of the Rebellion.

Mary, the only daughter of John and Mary (Howell) Read, married Gunning Bedford, Sr., who was a lieutenant in the war against the French in 1755, and took an active part in the Revolutionary struggle. He was commissioned major on the 20th of March, 1775, and becoming lieutenant-colonel of the Delaware Regiment on the 19th of January, 1776, was after-

wards wounded at the battle of White Plains while leading his men to the attack. The subjoined cut shows the sword used by Gunning Bedford at White Plains. After being badly wounded in the sword arm he was removed from the field by his men. The sword which had belonged to his father and



SWORD OF GUNNING BEDFORD.

grandfather, is a French rapier of the time of Charles I of England. Gunning Bedford was likewise muster-master general, member of the Continental Congress and Governor of Delaware. Governor and Mrs. Bedford (*née* Read) left no issue.

### DESCENDANTS OF COLONEL JOHN READ.

The following brief pedigree of the American branch of the Read family is taken from the detailed chart prepared by General Meredith Read in 1893 to which has been added much later material derived from equally reliable sources. The chart in question not only gives many interesting particulars concerning the American branch, but is also complete as to the English Reads, being brought down in detail to the year 1893. It is of too bulky a nature, however, to be reproduced entire in this work:

COLONEL JOHN READ (b. Jan. 15, 1688; d. June 15, 1756) married (April 16, 1731) Mary Howell (b. 1711; d. Sept. 22, 1784), and had —

1. George. *See below.*
  2. William (b. 1735; d. 1763), formerly of Philadelphia, afterward of Havana, West Indies, where he was assassinated in 1763. He married Elizabeth Chambers and had a daughter Mary, who married, first, Richard Thomas, and, secondly, Jesse Higgins. No children.
  3. John, planter, of Cecil county, Maryland (b. 1737; d. 1808), who inherited a plantation of 500 acres and a mansion from his father. He was unmarried.
  4. Thomas (b. 1740; d. Oct. 26, 1788) married (Sept. 7, 1779), as second husband, Mary Peale (b. March 8, 1743; d. Feb. 27, 1816), widow of Robert Fields. No children.
  5. James. *See below.*
  6. Andrew, planter of Cecil county, Maryland, where he died unmarried. He inherited a plantation of 500 acres, a mansion and two mills from his father.
  7. Mary (b. 1745; d. 1820) married, in 1769, Colonel Gunning Bedford (d. Sept. 30, 1797). No issue.
1. HON. GEORGE READ, the "Signer" (b. Sept. 18, 1733; d. Sept. 21, 1798), married (Jan. 11, 1763) Gertrude Ross (d. Sept. 2, 1802), daughter of Rev. George Ross and granddaughter of David Ross of Balblair. They had —
8. John (bapt. Dec. 1, 1763; d. in infancy). Named in honor of his grandfather, Colonel John Read. The fourth son received the same name, and consequently seemed to take the place of his eldest brother.
  9. George. *See below.*
  10. William. *See below.*
  11. John. *See below.*

12. Mary. *See below.*
5. COLONEL JAMES READ (b. 1743; d. Dec. 31, 1822) married Susanne Correy, July 9, 1770. They had—
13. James (b. 1783; d. Oct. 29, 1853, unmarried).
14. Susanne. *See below.*
15. Anna Correy (d. Dec. 3, 1847, unmarried).
16. Other issue who died in infancy.
9. HON. GEORGE READ (2d), of Delaware (b. Aug. 29, 1765; d. Sept. 3, 1836), married Mary Thompson, his first cousin, and daughter of General William Thompson, on Oct. 30, 1786. They had—
17. George. *See below.*
18. William Thompson (b. Aug. 22, 1792; d. Jan. 27, 1873, without issue). He married Sallie Latimer Thomas.
19. Gunning Bedford (d. 1826, unmarried).
20. Charles d'Happert (b. Sept., 1800; d. 1834, unmarried).
21. John Dickinson (b. Dec. 1803; d. 1831, unmarried).
22. Catherine Anne. *See below.*
23. Mary Gertrude (b. 1805; bapt. July 13, 1806).
10. HON. WILLIAM READ, of Philadelphia (b. Oct. 10, 1767; d. Sept. 25, 1846), third son of Hon. George Read, the "Signer," and Gertrude Ross, his wife, married (Sept. 22, 1796) Anne McCall (b. May 2, 1772; d. July 17, 1845), and had—
24. Hon. George Read (b. June 10, 1797; d. Mch., 1889, unmarried).
25. William Archibald (b. Oct. 19, 1800; d. in 1865, unmarried).
26. John (b. Oct. 10, 1802; d. Sept. 19, 1846, without issue).
27. Samuel McCall (b. Jan. 3, 1810; d. Aug. 30, 1860). Was married, but died without issue.
28. Mary. *See below.*
11. HON. JOHN READ (b. July 17, 1769; d. July 13, 1854), fourth son (second of the name) of Hon. George Read, the "Signer," and Gertrude Ross, his wife, married (June 25, 1796) Martha Meredith (b. 1773; d. Mch., 1816), and had—
29. John Meredith. *See below.*
30. Edward (b. 1799; d. in infancy).
31. Henry Meredith (b. Oct. 31, 1802; d. Mch. 16, 1828, unmarried).
32. Margaret Meredith (b. May 6, 1800; d. 1802).
33. Margaret Meredith (b. April 7, 1806; d. Mch. 13, 1854, unmarried).
12. MARY READ (b. Sept., 1770; d. Jan. 12, 1816), only daughter of Hon. George Read, the "Signer," married Matthew Pearce, Esq., and had—
34. Henry Ward (b. 1788; d. in infancy).
35. Gunning Bedford (b. 1790; d. s. p.).
36. Henry Ward (b. 1796).
37. William (d. s. p.).
38. Dr. George Read married Juliana Ward and had four children, who died in infancy. She married, secondly, Ambrose C. Richardson, Esq.
39. Matthew Carroll. *See below.*
40. David Ross (d. s. p.).
41. Anastatia Gertrude (b. 1792), married (1826) Dr. Allen McLane (d. Jan. 11, 1845).

42. Mary (b. 1794).
43. Emma.
44. Two other children, who died in infancy.
14. SUSANNE READ (b. Dec. 25, 1776; d. Dec. 3, 1861), daughter of Colonel James Read (5) and Susanne Correy, his wife, married (March 17, 1803) Joachim Frederic Eckard (d. Sept. 14, 1837), and had—
45. James Read. *See below.*
46. Frederic Simon (b. Aug. 28, 1807; d. 1856), married (June 3, 1845) Elizabeth X. Kelly.
47. Mary Read (b. Dec. 17 1803; d. Dec. 22, 1823, unmarried).
17. HON. GEORGE READ (3d), eldest son of Hon. George Read, 2d (9), and Mary Thompson, his wife, was born June 4, 1788; d. Nov. 1, 1837. He married (April 19, 1810) Louisa Ridgeley Dorsey, and had—
48. George. *See below.*
49. William. *See below.*
50. J. Dorsey, who married Maria Chapman.
51. Marian Murray. *See below.*
52. Louisa Gertrude, married Captain B. K. Pierce, and died in 1840, without issue.
53. Annie Dorsey. *See below.*
54. Caroline. *See below.*
55. Julia Rush, married Major-Gen. Samuel Jones (b. 1820; d. July 31, 1887), and had one daughter, Emily Read, who was unmarried.
56. Emily (unmarried).
22. CATHERINE ANNE READ (b. 1794; d. 1826), daughter of Hon. George Read, 2d (9), and Mary Thompson, his wife, married (June 18, 1812) Dr. Allan McLane (b. 1786; d. Jan. 11, 1845) and had
57. Julia. *See below.\**
58. Samuel (d. aet. 17).
- 58a. Allan, who married and had three children.
- 58b. Mary, who married Thomas Veazey Ward. (*See "Ward Family,"* p. 378.)
- 58c. George who married Mary Ashmead.
28. MARY READ (b. June 16, 1799; d. July 7, 1875), only daughter of Hon. William Read (10) and Anne McCall, his wife, married (1827) Coleman Fisher (b. 1793; d. March 4, 1857) and had—
59. Coleman P. (d. unmarried).
60. William Read (b. 1832; living, unmarried, 1893).
61. Elizabeth Rhodes (d. 1877), married Eugene A. Livingston (d. Dec. 22, 1893).
62. Sally West.
63. Mary Read.
29. HON. JOHN MEREDITH READ (b. July 21, 1797; d. Nov. 29, 1874), eldest son of Hon. John Read (11) and Martha Meredith, his wife, married, first (March 18, 1828), Priscilla Marshall (b. Dec. 19, 1808; d. April 18, 1841), daughter of Hon. Josiah Marshall; secondly (1855), Amelia Thomson (b. 1811; d. Sept. 14, 1886). By his first wife John Meredith Read had—

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\*The author is indebted to Miss Ross Read Lockwood, of Washington, D. C., a granddaughter of Dr. McLane, for valuable information concerning the descendants of Dr. Allan McLane and Catherine Anne Read, his wife. (See page 274.)

64. John Meredith. *See below*.
65. Emily Marshall (b. Jan. 5, 1829; d. April 20, 1854), married (June 13, 1849) William Henry Hyde and had one daughter, Emma (b. Nov. 18, 1852; d. April 16, 1880, s. p.), who married Hon. George W. Wurts. William Henry Hyde married, secondly, Miss Fleming.
66. Mary (b. 1830; d. 1831).
67. Mary (b. 1831; d. May, 1833).
68. Priscilla (b. 1833; d. 1835).
39. MATTHEW CARROLL PEARCE, son of Matthew Pearce and Mary Read (12), daughter of Hon. George Read, the "Signer," married Elizabeth Jeanette Groome, by whom he had—
69. Henry Ward (d. s. p.).
70. John Groome (d. s. p.).
71. Matthew Carroll (d. s. p.).
72. Henry Groome (d. s. p.).
73. Edward Ward (d. s. p.).
74.  $\left. \begin{array}{l} \text{Elizabeth Jeannette} \\ \text{Anastasia Gertrude} \end{array} \right\}$  twins (both d. s. p.).
75. Mary Wallace, married Dr. Andrew Binney Mitchell.
76. Elizabeth Jeannette. *See below*.
77. Ellen M. J. (living, unmarried, 1893).
45. REV. JAMES READ ECKARD (b. Nov. 22, 1805; d. Mch. 12, 1887), son of Joachim Frederic Eckard and Susame Read (14), daughter of Colonel James Read (5) and Susanne Correy, his wife, married (May 26, 1833) Margaret Esther Bayard (b. Oct. 18, 1810; d. Feb. 29, 1872) and had—
78. James (b. Feb. 10, 1838; d. Sept. 26, 1840).
79. Leighton Wilson. *See below*.
80. Jane Elizabeth (b. August 15, 1834; d. 1894, unmarried).
81. Anna Maria (b. Feb. 8, 1840), married (1881) Dr. Charles L. Crane.
82. Mary Kelly.
83. Anna Read (b. 1848), married Dr. Algernon S. Uhler, and had one son, Algernon S., posthumously born.
84. Elizabeth.
85. Two other children, who died in infancy.
48. GEORGE READ, 4th (b. Oct. 16, 1812; d. July 22, 1859), son of Hon. George Read, 3d (17), and Louisa Ridgeley Dorsey, his wife, married (Nov. 9, 1843) Susan Chapman, and had—
86. George. *See below*.
87. William Thompson (b. Oct. 7, 1857), married (Jan. 7, 1879) Antonio Sanders.
88. Marian (b. Feb. 3, 1853), married (Nov. 10, 1880) M. F. Carleton, and had four children—George, who married Emma Anderson; Marian, who married Hamilton Frank; Jessie and Mattie.
89. Five other children who died s. p.
49. WILLIAM READ (b. April 24, 1823; d. 1884), son of Hon. George Read, 3d (17), and Louisa Ridgeley Dorsey, his wife, married M. E. Beale, and had—
90. George, married Alice Dickson.

91. William Thompson.
  92. Emily Truxtun, married General M. C. Goodrell and had two children — Truxtun\* and Marie.
  93. Mary Anna, married J. Bates and had three children.
  94. Gertrude Parker, who married Paul Randolph.
  95. Blair Beale.
  96. Edith Ross, who married E. K. Brodhead and had three children.
51. MARIAN MURRAY READ (b. Feb., 1811; d. 1857), daughter of Hon. George Read, 3d (17), and Louisa Ridgeley Dorsey, his wife, married General James G. Martin, and had —
97. William Bruce, who married Elizabeth Stark, and had five children — Elizabeth, James, Lida, Mariame and George Read.
  98. James, who married Annie Davis, and had two daughters — Esther and Annie. Esther married Frank Metz, and has two children.
  99. Annie H. Martin (lives in Asheville).
100. Marian, who married Samuel Tennent, and had (1893) one daughter — Annie Martin.
53. ANNIE DORSEY READ (b. 1818), daughter of Hon. George Read, 3d (17), and Louisa Ridgeley Dorsey, his wife, married Captain Isaac S. Keith Reeves, and had —
101. Marian Calhoun Legare (b. 1854).
  102. Annie Dorsey. *See below.*
  103. Caroline Emily. *See below.*
  104. I. S. Keith, who married Henrietta Young, and had — Marian, who married Dr. Sidney Scott, and has two children; I. S. Keith, who married Margaret Hoblitzell, and had two children; Joan, who married Dr. Frank Duffy; Joseph, unmarried.
54. CAROLINE READ (b. 1820; d. Sept. 26, 1884), daughter of Hon. George Read, 3d (17), and Louisa Ridgeley Dorsey, his wife, married (March 31, 1840) Major-General William H. French (b. Jan. 13, 1815; d. May 20, 1881), and had —
105. Frank Sands (b. 1841; d. Sept. 4, 1865, unmarried).
  106. William (b. July 17, 1844), who married (1879) Emily Ott, and had twelve children.
  107. Halverson (d. unmarried).

\*Truxtun Goodrell, Esq., of Cherokee, Iowa, a descendant of Hon. George Read, the Signer, writes as follows to the compiler, under date of September, 1908:

My maternal grandfather was William Read, son of George Read, 3d. He graduated from West Point, and was a first lieutenant, U. S. A., in the Mexican war; married Mary Eliza Beale, daughter of George Beale, paymaster U. S. N. (who received a medal from Congress for gallantry in action), and his wife, Emily Truxtun, daughter of Commodore Thomas Truxtun, who received a vote of thanks from Congress and a Congressional medal for his victory over the French fleet in 1800. His mother was Katherine Von Dronk.

William Read had the following children:

1. George Beale Read, who married Alice Dickson and had two children — George Beale Read, Jr., and Alice Read.
2. Emily Truxtun Read, my mother, who married Brigadier-General Mencil Clay Goodrell. His father was Hon. Stewart Goodrell, of Iowa, whose father was Rev. George Goodrell, and his grandfather was George Goodrell, a captain of artillery under General Washington.
3. William Thompson Read.
4. Gertrude Parker Read, who married Paul Randolph.
5. F. P. Blair Read.
6. Edith Ross Read, who married Elber Howe Brodhead, whose children are: Beale, Truxtun and Elber Howe Brodhead.

Mrs. Brodhead lives in Parksburgh, Pa. All the rest of William Read's children make their homes in Washington, D. C., and his grandchildren all live there except myself.

108. George Ross (b. July 8, 1857), who married (March 26, 1885) Elizabeth H. Findlay, and had one son — Findlay French.
109. Annie Read (b. May 23, 1853), married (May 24, 1875) Captain John L. Clem (b. 1853), U. S. A., and had one son, John L., who married Elizabeth Benton.
110. Rosalie (b. June 4, 1861), married Lieutenant John Conklin, U. S. A., and had one son — John.
57. JULIA McLANE (b. Feb. 21, 1818; d. Nov. 21, 1880), daughter of Catherine Anne Read (22) and Dr. Allan McLane, married (Oct. 20, 1840) Dr. John Alexander Lockwood (b. 1812), and had —
111. John Alexander Lockwood (b. Oct. 30, 1856).
112. Mary Angela (b. Sept. 14, 1841; unmarried, 1893).
113. Katharine Read (b. Oct. 1, 1843; unmarried, 1893).
114. Edith. *See below.*
115. Sally Read (b. Oct. 3, 1849; d. Aug. 10, 1850).
116. Florence. *See below.*
117. Ross Read (b. Sept. 22, 1859).
64. GENERAL JOHN MEREDITH READ (b. Feb. 21, 1837; d. Dec. 27, 1896), son of Hon. John Meredith Read (29) and Priscilla Marshall, his wife, married (April 7, 1859) Delphine Marie, daughter of Harmon Pumpelly, and had —
118. Harmon Pumpelly (b. July 13, 1860), married (Aug. 24, 1889) Catherine Marguerite de Carron d'Allondans (b. Aug. 5, 1866). No children.
119. John Meredith (b. Jan. 27, 1869), married Countess Alix de Foras, and has one son, John Meredith Read.
120. Emily Meredith (b. Jan. 6, 1863), married, first (Aug. 21, 1884) Hon. Francis Aquila Stout (d. July 18, 1892), and, secondly, Edwards Spencer, Esq. No children.
121. Marie Delphine Meredith (b. May 9, 1873), married Count Max de Foras, and has three children — Countess Huguette, Countess Delphine and Count Joseph.
76. ELIZABETH JEANNETTE PEARCE, daughter of Matthew Carroll Pearce (39) and Elizabeth Jeannette Groome, his wife, married Clinton McCullough, Esq., and had —
122. Clinton (b. Dec. 8, 1876).
123. Matthew Pearce (b. Oct. 13, 1878).
124. Hiram (b. Sept. 8, 1880).
125. Groome (b. Dec. 10, 1882).
79. REV. LEIGHTON WILSON ECKARD (b. Sept. 23, 1845), second son of Rev. James Read Eckard (45) and Margaret Esther Bayard, his wife, married (June 3, 1869) Elizabeth Abbot Longstreth, and had —
126. James McIntosh Longstreth (b. May 23, 1870).
127. Bayard Gelston (b. Dec. 25, 1878).
128. Esther Longstreth (b. Aug. 27, 1872), married (1894) ——— Reeder.
129. Helen Nevins (b. Feb. 17, 1876).
130. Jane Louise (b. June 26, 1882).
86. GEORGE READ, 5th (b. Feb. 9, 1847), son of George Read, 4th (48), and Susan Chapman, his wife, married (April 15, 1878) Susan E. Salmons, and had —
131. George (d. in infancy).

132. Cleveland (b. July 4, 1884).
133. Alice (b. Feb. 15, 1880).
- 133½. Gertrude.
102. ANNIE DORSEY REEVES, daughter of Captain Isaac S. K. Reeves and Annie Dorsey Read (53), his wife, married Hon. John H. Rodney, and had—
134. Georges Brydges, who married Nesfield Cotchette and had a son, George Brydges.
135. Annie Read, who married Frank de H. Janvier and had two children— Frank Darrough and Margaret.
136. Keith Reeves, who married Matilda Walton and had a daughter, Virginia.
137. John H., Jr. (unmarried).
138. Sarah Duval, who married Captain A. V. Faulkner, U. S. A., and had a daughter, Annie Dorsey.
139. Dorsey (unmarried).
140. James, who married Louise Everett and had a daughter, Louise.
- 140a. Richard Seymour (unmarried).
103. CAROLINE E. REEVES, daughter of Captain Isaac S. K. Reeves and Annie Dorsey Read (53), his wife, married William S. Potter, and had—
141. Carolyn Reeves, who married Rev. Wyllys Rede and had two sons and three daughters, George Ross, Kenneth, Emily, Carolyn Wyllys, Marion.
142. Dorsey Read, who married May Wheat and had— May, William S. and Florence Allen (d. inf.).
143. Marian Legare.
144. Annie Dorsey, who married Frank J. Taylor and had— Anna Margaret, Carolyn Reeves and Frank J.
145. William Walk, who married Mabel Dunham and had five children.
146. Emily Read, who married William F. Alexander and had two sons— Richard A. and William Fontaine.
147. Julia Ross (unmarried).
- 147a. Nathaniel (unmarried).
- 147b. Knight (unmarried).
114. EDITH LOCKWOOD (b. Aug. 29, 1845), daughter of Dr. John Alexander Lockwood and Julia McLane (57), his wife, married (May 16, 1871) Edward William Sturdy (b. Sept. 18, 1845), and had—
148. Edward William (b. Mch. 3, 1872; d. Aug. 9, 1872).
149. Henry Francis (b. Nov. 17, 1884).
150. Julia McLane. *See below*.
151. Edith Rhoda (b. Nov. 10, 1875).
116. FLORENCE LOCKWOOD (b. April 26, 1853), daughter of Dr. John Alexander Lockwood and Julia McLane (57), his wife, married (Feb. 17, 1878) Captain Charles Alfred Booth (b. 1841), U. S. A., and had—
152. William Chatfield (b. Jan. 12, 1879).
153. Mary Louise (b. July 24, 1880).
150. JULIA McLANE STURDY (b. Jan. 29, 1873), daughter of Edward William Sturdy and Edith Lockwood (114), his wife, married Hardee Chambliss and had—
154. Joseph Hardee.
155. John Alexander Lockwood.
156. Hardee.

## READ OF DELAWARE.

The following account of the American Read family, descendants of Colonel John Read, is in the main derived from the "History of Delaware," and was written by General Meredith Read, but the author and compiler has added much interesting material to the original account:

### GEORGE READ, THE "SIGNER."

George Read was, in a peculiar sense, the father of the State of Delaware, for he was the author of her first Constitution in 1776, and of the first edition of her laws. He figured in her Assembly no less than twelve years, was Vice-President of the State, and at one time her acting chief magistrate. He penned the address from Delaware to the King, which Lord Shelbourne said so impressed George III. that he read it over twice. He is the most conspicuous figure in the Delaware record, for Thomas McKean and John Dickinson were more closely allied to Pennsylvania than to Delaware; and while Caesar Rodney was prominent in the time of the Declaration, and afterwards as President of Delaware, his premature death in 1783 cut short his career. In person, Read was tall, slight, graceful, with a finely-shaped head, strong, but refined features, and dark-brown, lustrous eyes. His manners were dignified, and he could not tolerate the slightest familiarity, but he was most courteous, and at times captivating; and he dressed with the most scrupulous care and elegance. He was one of the two statesmen, and the only Southern statesman, who signed all three of the great State papers on which our history is based—the original petition to the King of the Congress of 1774, the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the

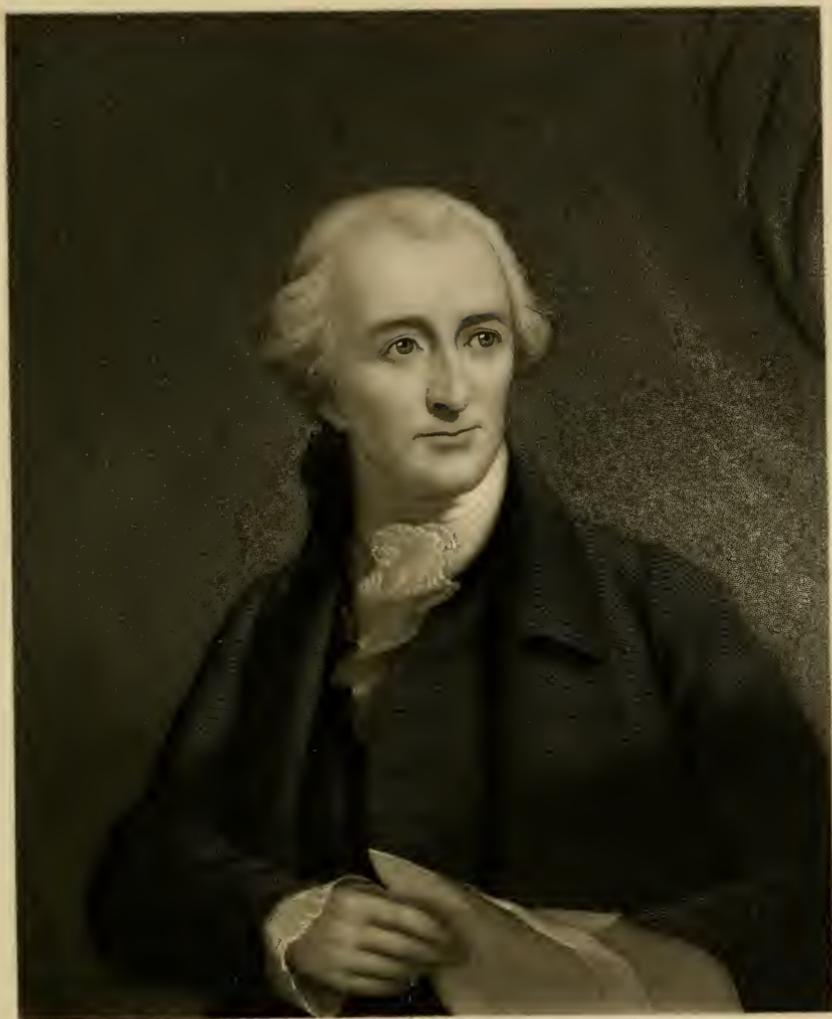


*GEORGE READ ESQUIRE*

BOOKPLATE OF HON. GEORGE  
READ, the "Signer."

United States. He was the eldest son of Colonel John Read, of Maryland and Delaware, and was born on the 18th of September, 1733, on one of the family estates in Cecil county, Maryland. After receiving a classical education under Dr. Francis Allison, he studied law, and was called to the bar at the age of nineteen in the city of Philadelphia, and in 1754 removed to New Castle, Delaware, in which province the family also had important landed interests.

On the 11th of January, 1763, he married Gertrude, daughter of the Rev. George Ross, for nearly fifty years rector of Emmanuel Church, New Castle, a vigorous pillar of the Established Church in America. Mrs. Read's



*Geo. Read*

(1733-1798)



brother, John Ross, had been attorney-general under the crown. Another brother, the Rev. Æneas Ross, became celebrated as the author of eloquent and patriotic sermons during the Revolution; while still another brother, George Ross, was an eminent judge and a signer of the Declaration of Independence.

Having been appointed attorney-general under the crown at the early age of twenty-nine, Mr. Read felt it to be his duty, as a friend to the mother country, to warn the British government of the danger of attempting to tax the colonies without giving them direct representation in Parliament, and in his correspondence with his friend, Sir Richard Neave, afterwards governor of the Bank of England, he gave utterance, eleven years before the Declaration of Independence, to the remarkable prophecy that a continuance in this mistaken policy would lead to independence and eventually to the colonies surpassing England in her staple manufactures. Finding no manifestation of change in the position towards the colonies, he resigned the attorney-generalship, and accepted a seat in the First Congress, which met at Philadelphia in 1774. He still, however, hoped for reconciliation, and he voted against the motion for independence. But he finally signed the Declaration of Independence when he found there was no hope, and henceforward was the constant originator and ardent supporter of measures in behalf of the national cause. He was president of the Constitutional Convention in 1776, and the author of the first Constitution of Delaware and of the first edition of her laws. In 1782 he was appointed by Congress a judge in the national Court of Appeals in Admiralty. Three years later Congress made him one of the commissioners of a federal court to determine an important controversy in relation to territory between New York and Massachusetts. In 1786 he was a delegate to the convention which met at Annapolis, Maryland, and he took an active part in those proceedings which culminated in the calling together, in 1787, of the convention in Philadelphia which framed the Constitution of the United States. In this august body he was also a prominent figure, especially in his able advocacy of the rights of the smaller States to a proper representation in the Senate. Immediately after the adoption of the Constitution, which Delaware, largely under his direction, was the first to

Professor George Otis Holbrooke, for many years professor at Trinity College, Hartford, on the occasion of the birthday of George Read, The Signer, wrote the following unpublished verses and sent them to the author:

GEORGE READ, THE "SIGNER."

Son of the old world, founder of the new,  
 Calm and serene he stemmed life's troubled sea.  
 What glowing pageants passed before his view —  
 Courts, revolutions and a state to be.  
 Prophetic, clear, they gaze upon us still,  
 Those thoughtful eyes that haunt the ancient frame  
 To stir the soul and conscience, and to thrill  
 Their hearts who should inherit his pure fame.  
 Noble the golden counsels which he traced  
 Upon the legal temple of his age;  
 Noblest of all the honored name he placed  
 Upon the Declaration's tragic page.

ratify, he was elected to the Senate of the United States. At the expiration of his term he was re-elected. He resigned in 1793, and accepted the office of chief justice of Delaware, which he filled until his death, on the 21st of September, 1798. Chief Justice Read commanded public confidence, not only from his profound legal knowledge, sound judgment and impartial decisions, but from his severe integrity and estimable private character. Those who differed from him in opinion believed that he was acting from a sense of duty, and declared that there was not a dishonest fibre in his heart nor an element of meanness in his soul. He left three distinguished sons, George Read, second, for thirty years United States district attorney of Delaware; William Read, consul-general of the kingdom of Naples, and John Read, Senator of Pennsylvania; and one daughter, Mary Read, who married Colonel Matthew Pearce, of Poplar Neck, Cecil County, Maryland. George Read, the signer, was an ardent member of the Church of England

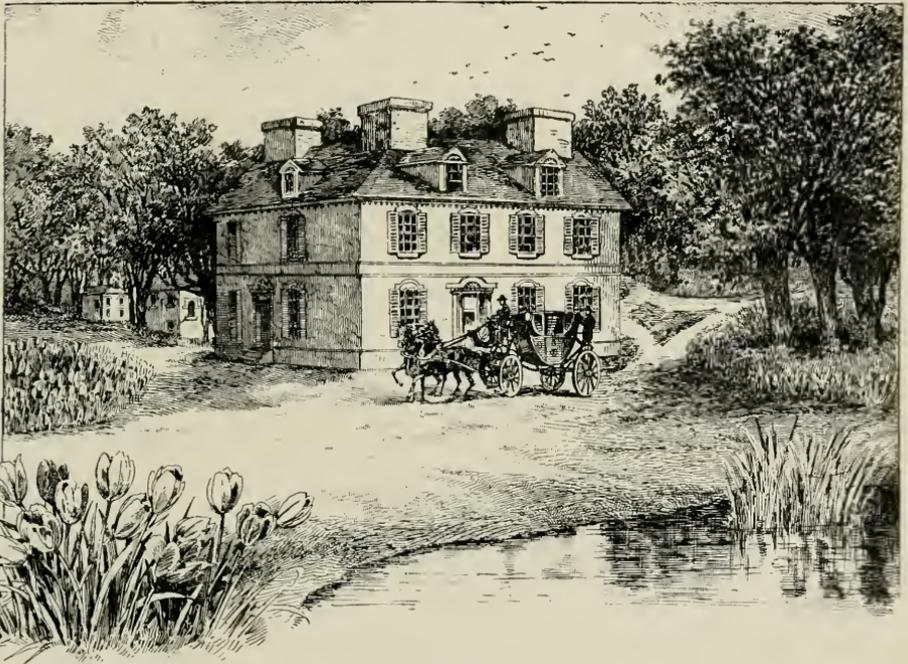


SILVER SERVICE WHICH BELONGED TO GEORGE READ,  
the "Signer."

and afterwards of the American Episcopal Communion, and for many years one of the wardens of Emmanuel Church, New Castle; and he lies in that beautiful and quiet churchyard, where seven generations of the Read family repose.

The colonial Read mansion, on the west bank of Delaware Bay, in New Castle, in which George Read, the signer, lived and died, was the scene of elegant hospitality for many long years. Here the leading magnates of the colonies were entertained before the Revolution, and within its hospitable walls were gathered from time to time groups of fashionable friends from the different parts of the South, as well as from Philadelphia, Annapolis and New York. Washington and many of the native and foreign Revolutionary generals and all the foremost statesmen of the republic slept under its roof-tree, and enjoyed the courtly hospitalities of its owners. A portion of this mansion was destroyed by fire in 1824, but it was restored and is still standing on the Delaware front in New Castle. It was one of the finest family residences in the South. In the extensive gardens about it grew venerable

box, cut in fantastic shapes, and tulips of the greatest variety and beauty, this being the favorite flower of the family—as the oak was its favorite tree. In the rear of the extensive offices and out-buildings were the quarters of the slaves—that is, of the house servants, the field-hands being on the outlying plantations and at Mr. Read's country-seat, farther south on the Delaware shore. George Read was a man not only of the highest integrity, but of the greatest liberality, and he gave so generously both his time and his money to the service of his country that the aggregate dispensed amounted to a very large sum of money for that day. George Read was a man who gathered about him a large circle of warm friends who looked up to him for



READ MANSION on Delaware Bay, Newcastle, Del., in Colonial Days. Residence of Hon. George Read, the "Signer."

guidance and advice. One of the most notable proofs of his own devotion to friendship was the proof which he gave of his enduring affection for John Dickinson. The latter, having not only opposed but refused to sign the Declaration of Independence, thereby lost his popularity entirely. But through the friendship and political and personal influence of George Read he was after a time restored to public life, became President successively of the States of Delaware and Pennsylvania, and afterwards one of the delegates to the convention which framed the Constitution of the United States.

There are at least three original portraits of George Read, of Delaware. One is by Gilbert Stuart, another by Robert Edge Pine, and a third by Trumbull, in the historical painting "The Declaration of Independence,"

which is in the Capitol at Washington. He figures prominently also in various other historical pictures,—among others, “The Signing of the Constitution of the United States,” by Rossiter, and in a “Dinner at General Washington’s to George Read, of Delaware,” by M. Armand Dumaresq. The latter was painted for General Meredith Read, the great grandson of George Read, and a copy taken by permission of the owner is in the possession of William Astor, Esq., of New York. The principal personages represented are General and Mrs. Washington, Chief Justice Read, the Marquis de Lafayette and Richard Henry Lee. Monsieur Dumaresq had previously sketched the portraits in the Trumbull collection at New Haven. George Read is also an important figure in “The Dinner Club of the Congress of 1775,” also painted for General Meredith Read by M. Armand Dumaresq. The correspondence of George Read has preserved the memory of this interesting and select social gathering. It was composed of the following eight members (who dined together every day, except Sunday), viz., Randolph, Lee, Washington and Harrison of Virginia, Chase of Maryland, Rodney and Read of Delaware, and Alsop of New York.

#### COMMODORE THOMAS READ.

Commodore Thomas Read, the first naval officer who obtained the rank of commodore in command of an American fleet, was a brave soldier, daring navigator and discoverer. He was the son of Colonel John Read, of Maryland and Delaware, and the brother of George Read, of Delaware, the signer, and Colonel James Read, who was at the head of the Navy Department during the Revolution. He was born at the family-seat, New Castle County, Delaware, in 1740, and was married, on the 7th of September, 1779, to Mrs. Mary Field, *née* Peale, at his seat, White Hill, near Bordentown, New Jersey, by his friend, the Rev. William White, chaplain of the Continental Congress, afterwards the first Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Pennsylvania.

On the 23d of October, 1775, at the early age of thirty-five, he was made Commodore of the Pennsylvania navy, and had as his fleet surgeon Dr. Benjamin Rush, subsequently one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence. In the following year he made a successful defense of the Delaware, and Captains Souder, Jackson, Potts and Charles Biddle gallantly volunteered under him at that moment as seamen before the mast. On the 7th of June, 1776, he was appointed to the highest grade in the Continental navy, and was assigned to one of the four largest ships—the 32-gun frigate “George Washington,” then being built in the Delaware. In October of the same year Congress regulated the rank of the officers of the navy, and he stood sixth on the list. His ship being still on the stocks, he volunteered for land service, and on the 2d of December, 1776, the Committee of Safety directed him, with his officers, to join General Washington. He gave valuable assistance in the celebrated crossing of the Delaware by Washington’s army, and at the battle of Trenton commanded a battery composed of guns taken from his own frigate, which raked the stone bridge across the Assanpink. For this important service he received the thanks of all the general officers, as stated in the letter of the 14th of January, 1777, written to his wife by his brother, Colonel James Read, who was near him during the battle.



COMMODORE THOMAS MEARNS

1740-1788

THE FIRST TO ATTAIN THE RANK OF COMMODORE IN COMMAND OF AN AMERICAN FLEET.



After much service by land and by sea he resigned, and retired to his seat, White Hill, where he dispensed a constant hospitality, especially to his old associates in the Order of the Cincinnati, of which he was one of the original members. His friend Robert Morris, the financier of the Revolution, having purchased his old frigate, "the Alliance," induced Commodore Read to take command of her, and to make a joint adventure to the Chinese seas and an out-of-season passage to China, never before attempted. Taking with him as his first officer one of his old subordinates, Richard Dale, afterwards the commodore in command, in 1801, of the American fleet sent to the Mediterranean, and Mr. George Harrison (who became an eminent citizen of Philadelphia) as supercargo, he sailed from the Delaware on the 7th of

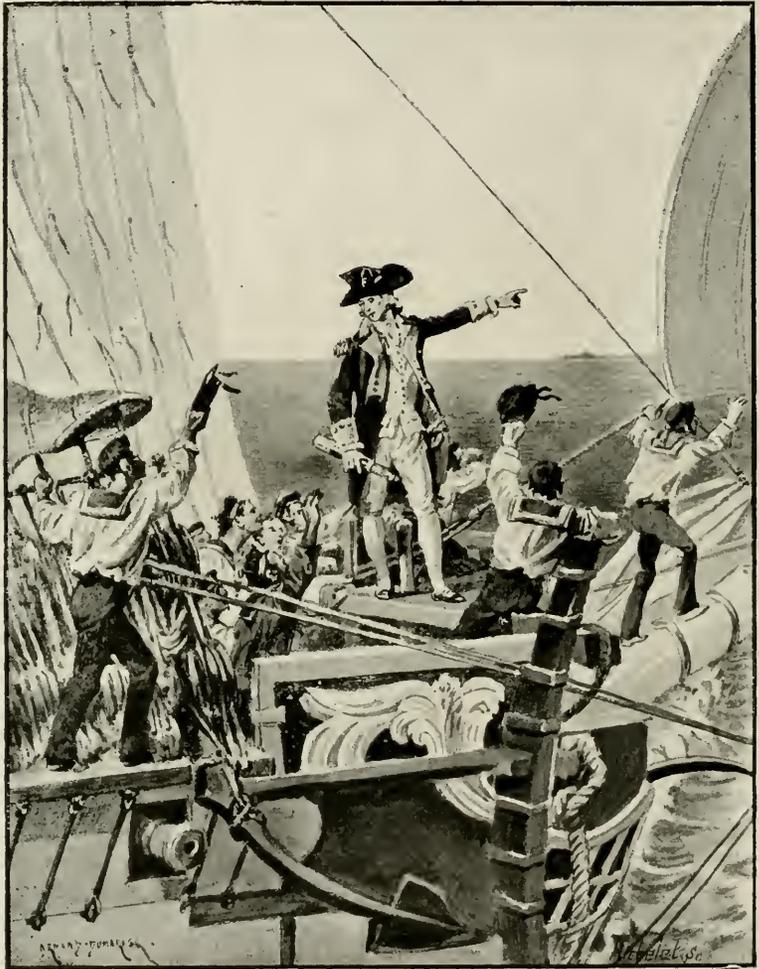


DECORATION OF THE ORDER OF  
THE CINCINNATI.

June, 1787, and arrived at Canton the following 22d of December, having made the first out-of-season passage to China, and discovered two islands, one of which he named Morris and the other Alliance Island. These islands form a portion of the now celebrated Caroline Islands, and Commodore Read's discovery gave rights to the United States which have never been properly asserted. Commodore Read reached Philadelphia on his return voyage on the 17th of September, 1788, and on the 26th of October following died at his seat in New Jersey, in the forty-ninth year of his age. Robert Morris concluded his obituary of him in these words: "While integrity, benevolence, patriotism and courage, united with the most gentle manners, are respected and admired among men, the name of this valuable citizen and soldier will be revered and beloved. He was, in the noblest import of the word, a man." Commodore Read left no descendants.

The Minutes of the Provincial Council of Pennsylvania (Vol. x, p. 379) contains the following recommendation:

At a meeting of the Committee of Safety, October 23d, 1775— This Board having taken into their consideration (by the desire of the Hon'ble Assem-



COMMODORE THOMAS READ (1740-1788) discovering Alliance and Morris Islands, 1787.

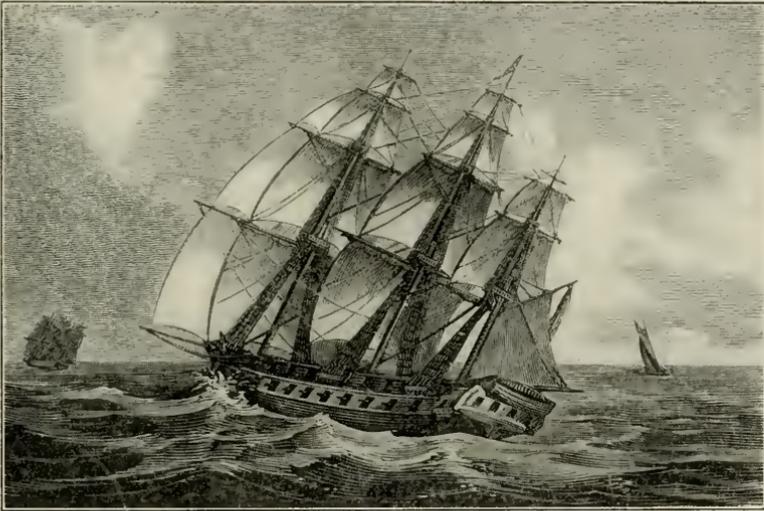
bly) the appointment of a Commodore to command the fleet, Capt. Thomas Read was named; and after full consideration of his merits, and inquiring into his character and qualifications, it was —

Resolved, That the said Capt. Thomas Read be recommended as a proper person to be appointed by the Honorable House of Assembly to that important station.

The Pennsylvania Committee of Safety, under date of June 7, 1776, accepted the resignation of Capt. Thomas Read as commander of the ship *Montgomery*, he "having been recommended to the command of a Continental frigate." His new command was the 36-gun frigate *George Washington*. He also commanded the frigate *Alliance*, and in 1780, as appears in an official list of the navy of the United States sent to Benjamin Franklin, he was in command of the *Bourbon*, while the *Alliance* was under command of Paul Jones.

The appended description of Captain Thomas Read's voyage in the old *Alliance* to China is copied from the *Pennsylvania Packet and Daily Advertiser* of September 23, 1788:

PHILADELPHIA, *Sept.* 23, 1788.—Captain Thomas Read, in the ship *Alliance*, bound to China, sailed from Philadelphia in the month of June, 1787, and



FRIGATE ALLIANCE, COMMANDED BY COMMODORE THOMAS READ.

arrived at Canton the 22d day of December in the same year, having navigated on a rout as yet unpractised by any other ship. Taking soundings off the Cape of Good Hope, he steered to the southeastward, encircling all the eastern and southern islands of the Indian Ocean, passing the South Cape of New Holland; and on their passage to the northward again towards Canton, between the latitude of 7 and 4 degrees south, and between the longitude of 156 and 162 degrees east, they discovered a number of islands, the inhabitants of which were black, with curled or woolly hair. Among these islands they had no soundings. And about the latitude of 8 degrees north, and in the longitude of 160 degrees east, they discovered two other islands, inhabited by a brown people, with straight black hair. These islands appeared to be very fertile, and much cultivated; and by the behaviour of the inhabitants the ship's company were induced to believe they were the first discoverers.—One of them was named *Morris Island*, the other *Alliance Island*. They did not land on any of them. These discoveries were made in the month of November.

The officers of the European ships in China were astonished to find a vessel arriving at that season of the year, and with eagerness and pleasure examined the tract of their voyage.

In coasting near New-Holland; they had the winds generally from S. W. and blowing strong, with a great deal of rain.

They finished their voyage by arriving again at Philadelphia on the 17th of September, 1788, having returned by the usual rout of the European ships, until they were in the Atlantic Ocean.

### COLONEL JAMES READ.

Colonel James Read, one of the fathers of the American navy, was a son of Colonel John Read, of Maryland and Delaware, and a brother of George Read, of Delaware, the signer of the Declaration of Independence and the framer of the Constitution of the United States, and of the daring navigator and discoverer, Commodore Thomas Read, of the Continental navy. He was born at the family seat, New Castle County, Delaware, in 1743, and died at Philadelphia the 31st of December, 1822, in his eightieth year. He was



SILVER SERVICE WHICH BELONGED TO COLONEL JAMES READ.

regularly promoted from first lieutenant to colonel for gallant and distinguished services at the battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine and Germantown. He was appointed by Congress, the 4th of November, 1778, one of the three commissioners of the navy for the Middle States; and on January 11, 1781, Congress invested him with the sole power to conduct the Navy Board. When his friend, Robert Morris, became agent, he was elected secretary, and was the virtual head of the marine department, while Robert Morris managed the finance department of the American confederacy.

Colonel James Read married, on the 9th of July, 1770, Susanne Correy, of the Correys of Chester County, Pennsylvania, and left one son, James Read, born at Philadelphia in 1783. The latter was a great traveler in European and Oriental countries. In 1815 he visited Sweden with his friend, Sir Robert Ker Porter, and was there created a Knight of the Order of the Amaranth by the Queen of Sweden. He was a man of distinguished attainments as an amateur botanist. He died unmarried, at Philadelphia, the 29th of October, 1853. Colonel James Read also left one married daughter, Susanne Read, who married, the 27th of March, 1803, Joachim Frederic



## COLONEL JAMES READ,

ONE OF THE FATHERS OF THE AMERICAN NAVY

A son of Colonel John Read of Maryland & Delaware 1659-1756, and a brother of the signer of the Declaration of Independence George Read of Delaware, & of the daring navigator & discoverer Captain Thomas Read of the Continental Navy, he was born on one of his Father's plantations New Castle Co. Del. in 1743, & died at Philadelphia 31<sup>st</sup> Dec. 1822 in his 80<sup>th</sup> year. He was promoted from 1<sup>st</sup> Lieut to Colonel for gallant and distinguished services at the Battles of Trenton, Princeton, Brandywine, and Germantown. He was appointed by Congress 4<sup>th</sup> Nov. 1778, one of the 3 Commissioners of the Navy for the Middle States; and on the 11<sup>th</sup> January, 1781, Congress invested him with sole power to conduct the Navy Board. When his friend Robert Morris became Agent he was elected Secretary, and was the virtual head of the Marine Department while Robert Morris managed the Finance Department of the American Confederacy.



Eckard, Danish consul at Philadelphia, and brother of His Excellency Christian Eckard, Knight of the Dannebrog and honorary councillor to the King of Denmark, whose daughter married the Court Grand Huntsman Tutein, Knight Grand Cross of the Dannebrog, while his sons and grandsons were knights of the same order and superior judges of Schleswig-Holstein. Consul-General Eckard died at Venezuela the 14th of September, 1837. Mrs. Susanne Read Eckard was a woman of remarkable accomplishments and great wit, and figures, under the name of Miss Rushbrook, in a novel entitled "Justina," by Mrs. Simeon De Witt, published in 1823. It is there said: "She keeps the most literary and the most fashionable society in Philadelphia. Her manners are charming, her conversation full of mind, and her heart is noble and benevolent." Mrs. Eckard was the author of the historical account of "Washington delivering his Farewell Address." Mrs. Eckard died at Philadelphia the 3d day of December, 1861, leaving two distinguished sons,—*i. e.*, Dr. Frederick Eckard, and the Rev. Dr. James Read Eckard. The latter was born in Philadelphia on the 22d of November, 1805, and died on the 12th of March, 1887. After graduating with honor at the University of Pennsylvania, he studied law with his cousin, Chief Justice John Meredith Read, and was called to the bar. But shortly afterwards he studied theology, and graduated at the Princeton Divinity School. His long life was one of remarkable usefulness, and his work in India and China rounded to the credit of America. In 1845 he published an authoritative volume on Ceylon. Dr. Read Eckard married Margaret Esther, daughter of Dr. Nicholas Bayard, the son of Colonel John Bayard, of Philadelphia. He left one son, the Rev. Leighton Wilson Eckard, born 23d September, 1845, who graduated at Lafayette College and at the Princeton Divinity School, and is also a distinguished clergyman.

Among the papers of the late General Meredith Read was found an account of the career of Colonel James Read, written by his grandson, Rev. Dr. James Read Eckard, in a letter to General Read, from which account the following extracts are made:

Colonel James Read's father, Colonel John Read, had a mill on his property into which he had introduced certain improvements which were esteemed as being valuable. One day, when James, his son, was but twelve years old, while every white member of the household, except himself, were absent, a young gentleman in a light chaise, accompanied by a black servant on horseback, drove up and asked if Mr. Read was at home. When the lad said he was not, the youthful stranger expressed much disappointment, and said: "I have come some distance out of my way to see his mill; I am about to build one on my own property and wish to see the improvements which I have heard he has made in his." The lad replied: "If that is all, I can show them to you and explain them." The stranger alighted and went into the mill. There everything was shown and explained. With the aid of a black man connected with the place, the mill was set at work and some wheat ground to show the practical operation of the machinery. After this, and before the stranger left, he said: "My little friend, when your father comes home give him the compliments of Colonel Washington, of Virginia, and thank him in my name for the politeness of his son, and tell

him from me that you showed all things to me as well as any one could have done." It will be remembered that in the spring of 1755 Washington, after resigning his Colonial commission, and before engaging to serve with Braddock, entered, for a time, vigorously on the improvement of Mount Vernon, which he had just inherited.

Early in September, 1774, the first Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. James Read, then a merchant, lived on Walnut street, a few doors below Third, on part of the present site of the Exchange. His eldest brother, George Read, of Newcastle (afterward the "signer"), had just arrived as a delegate to the Congress, and the two brothers were sitting on the porch, on a warm evening about dusk, when a gentleman drove rapidly down Walnut street, with two horses, followed by a black servant in livery. George Read remarked, "I suppose that is one of the Southern delegates, just arrived." James Read replied, "It is Colonel Washington of Virginia; I have not seen him since I was a boy twelve years old, but I never could forget Colonel Washington after seeing him once." Colonel Washington had visited Colonel John Read several times at Christiana, but George Read was in Philadelphia on these occasions.

Several battalions of "Associators" (we would now call them volunteers) were formed in Philadelphia. In January, 1776, James Read was elected first lieutenant, "by a very great majority" of a company (Delaney's) in the Third Battalion of Associators, which late in 1776 marched to join Washington after the defeats on Long Island and above New York. It was part of Irwin's Brigade when the Delaware was crossed by Washington on Christmas night, 1776. Irwin's Brigade was to have crossed at Trenton Ferry, but the floating ice prevented the greater part of his force from crossing. This company, however, got across and remained on the Jersey shore for two hours. I went once with my grandfather (James Read) to see Trumbull's picture of the "Crossing of the Delaware," at which time he referred to his waiting on the Jersey shore of the river, and, as a criticism on the picture, objected that the night was so very dark that nothing at all could be seen on the water and very little on the land.

On the night of January 3, 1777, the American army marched to Princeton. I have repeatedly, as a boy, heard my grandfather describe his personal share in that event. His baggage had been captured near Bordentown and he was lying on the frozen ground, with his feet near a bright fire, trying in vain to sleep. The approaching sounds of horses' hoofs aroused him as a group of horsemen drew near. One of them rode up to the fire, by the light of which he was recognized as General Washington. He asked, "Have you a command here?" On being answered "Yes," he again asked, "Can your men be under arms in five minutes?" The reply was, "Yes, in one minute." As the men were all awake and dressed, they were under arms in less than one minute. After a while they were ordered to march on the Princeton road. As they walked some fell asleep whilst marching and were awakened by falling over the frozen ruts in the road. For some time a man was behind my grandfather trotting like a dog, aiming thus to keep warm by the motion. When it was sufficiently light to distinguish faces my grandfather turned round and saw it was General Mifflin (afterwards Gov-

ernor of Pennsylvania). After exchanging salutations, he asked, "Where are we going?" A turn in the road just then brought them in sight of something gleaming at a distance. General Mifflin pointed to the gleam and said: "That is the morning dawn reflected from a window in Princeton. We are going to it, but shall have a bloody time before we reach there." Very soon afterwards firing was heard in front. It was not long before the "Associators" were ordered forward and found themselves under fire. My grandfather was near to Washington when he rode between the fire of both armies as he is represented by the bronze image in the "Circle" in Washington City. Referring to that critical moment he wrote to his family after the battle: "I would wish to say a few words respecting the actions of that truly great man, General Washington, but it is not in my power to convey any just ideas of him. I shall never forget what I felt when I saw him brave all the dangers of the field, his important life hanging as it were by a single hair, with a thousand deaths flying around him. I thought not of myself. He is surely Heaven's peculiar care."

Delaney's company took part in the bayonet charge which decided the battle. Whilst charging on the British line my grandfather saw an English soldier rushing at him with a fixed bayonet. He had in his hand a fusil (which I still own and such as company officers then carried in battle), with this he fired at the Englishman, who instantly threw down his musket and pressed his hand on his side. Blood gushed out between his fingers. My grandfather felt, as he told me, a terrible emotion as he saw the blood and feared he had killed a human being. He sprang up to the man with the exclamation: "Have I hurt you?" The soldier said: "Your ball grazed my side. I am not mortally wounded." He then went to the rear as a prisoner.

After the battle my grandfather was left with a party of soldiers to attend to the wounded. A dying English officer was among the prisoners. He had been left for dead, but Mr. Read heard him moan. Raising him up he endeavored for some time to give relief. The dying man gave his name and that of another officer in the British army and requested that his watch should be sent to his mother through that officer. Then he said, search in such a part of my dress and you will find a razor. It was soon found, and he remarked: "Such a razor as that can scarcely be procured in America. I wish you to keep it and use it as a gift of gratitude from a dying enemy." Both parts of the request were complied with, and the razor was constantly used for many years. It was very superior to most others. I know not where it is now, but I often saw it in my boyhood. Between Princeton and New Brunswick is a descent and ascent in the road which, possibly, by modern grading is less marked now than formerly. As the party left under my grandfather's command ascended the rising ground on the New Brunswick side, on their retreat from the battle ground, they saw the advanced guard of Lord Cornwallis' army appear on the top of the hill behind them.

Mrs. Susan Read (my grandmother) entered zealously into her husband's patriotic feelings. She was ill in Philadelphia when the battle of Princeton was fought. Exaggerated reports of the fight and the slaughter reached the city. A friend wishing to quiet her anxiety said, in her hearing: "I do not

think that Jimmy Read was in the battle; probably he was in such or such a place." Mrs. Read turned to her and said, in a playful manner: "If there has been a battle and Jimmy Read was not in it he need not come back to me, for I would never live under the same roof with him."

In February, 1777, he returned to his duties in Philadelphia as Paymaster in the Marine Department. President Wharton of Pennsylvania sent him in March a commission giving rank as Lieutenant-Colonel, and constituting him "Sub-lieutenant of the City of Philadelphia for the purpose of mustering and classing the Militia." Mr. Read declined this office, saying: "I am already engaged in the service of the Honourable the Continental Congress, in a line of duty which engrosses the whole of my time and attention." In June, 1777, he accepted a commission as Major of the 1st Battalion of Philadelphia City Militia, and was present at the battle of Brandywine in September. I once heard his nephew, Mr. William Read (your granduncle) relate how, when he was a small boy, he went to see the American army on its retreat from Brandywine. He was particularly struck with the fine personal appearance of his uncle who was riding with his battalion. For want of a cloak he had bound a blanket around him with his sword belt, but his fine person and military bearing gave him an impressive aspect notwithstanding this revolutionary costume. Soon after the battle of Brandywine Major Read accepted a temporary appointment as brigade major on the staff of General Irwin. He held this position at the battle of Germantown.

Once, when I was riding with him from Abington to Philadelphia, on the "Old York Road," about seven or eight miles from the city, he pointed to a wood on the left side of the road and said: "It was in that wood that Major —— and I commenced the fighting of the extreme left column of the American army at the battle of Germantown." He then gave me a full account. He and a Major Somebody (I forget the name) were sent on the night of Oct. 3d down the Old York Road with a detachment, to arrest and secure every person living on the road, so as to prevent information of the advance of the army being carried to the enemy. As they went along, in a solitary part of the road, he and his associate in command differed as to the day of the week, whether it was Thursday or Friday. For the first and last time in his life he made a bet, which he lost. The bet was for a pair of gloves. As a matter of principle he never again laid a wager to any amount. The day was Friday. When they reached the wood before referred to it was early in the morning of the 4th. Leaving the road and passing some little distance through the wood they surprised a detachment of British soldiers. Firing commenced, but soon the British gave way. Both parties were reinforced, but the Americans, in that part of the field, steadily maintained their advantage. The British were driven back from one position to another, until the repulse of the American main column at Chews house. Of this disaster most of those on the extreme left knew nothing until some time after they were ordered to retreat. Major Read at first supposed that the retreat was a retrograde military movement connected with victory. After riding some distance he was met by an officer who had been sent down the road to meet that part of the army. Major Read earnestly asked what this backward movement meant. The other one then told of the defeat in

the center and added that a strong body of British troops on another road had already reached a place two miles in advance of where they then were.

During the battle Major Read was close by a sergeant who stood very high as a soldier and who suddenly struck one hand on his forehead and kept it there for a few moments. Major Read asked if he was hurt. The sergeant removed his hand and showed a musket ball in it, saying that his forehead had been struck by that ball without being penetrated. He complained of an agonizing pain in his head. By the advice of Major Read he went to the rear to get surgical aid, but he soon died.

A cannon ball from the British artillery cut through a tree which fell so as somewhat to injure the leg of Major Read. He dismounted for a few minutes to attend to his hurt limb. Just then Colonel Forrest of Philadelphia came to a rising ground close by, with two field pieces. Colonel Forrest was himself engaged in leveling one of the cannons when a well-aimed discharge from the British battery killed or wounded every man standing by both of them, except Forrest. He quietly finished his work, then stooped down, took the match from the hand of the dead artilleryman and fired the cannon. Major Read who was very near him said that there was not the least change of countenance in Forrest or the least departure from perfect tranquility of manner.

After the battle of Germantown he returned to his office as Paymaster of the Navy. On February 12th, 1778, he was directed by the Naval Committee of Congress to remove his books and papers from Bordentown to Baltimore. In 1779 he was made Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant of a Regiment of Philadelphia City Militia. He then, I think, resigned his office as Paymaster of the Navy. For a while he and Colonel Jonathan Bayard Smith were in command of a body of troops near the Robin Hood tavern on the Ridge Road, four miles from Philadelphia. I know not the exact time of this, but I think it was in the summer of 1779.

In 1779 the Continental Congress appointed Colonel Read, together with John Wharton and William Winder (father of the late General William Winder of Baltimore), as Commissioners of the Navy Board. Messrs. Wharton and Winder declined the appointment and Congress passed a resolution authorizing Col. Read to perform the duties of all three. Cooper, in his *Naval History*, says: "In October, 1779—a Board of Admiralty was established consisting of three Commissioners who were not in Congress and two that were. Of this Board any three were competent to act. In January, 1781, James Read (misspelled Reed) was appointed by special resolution to manage the affairs of the Navy Board in the Middle Department."\*

Subsequently a different arrangement was made. The Superintendent of Finance, Mr. Morris, was directed by Congress to exercise the powers and perform the duties of Agent of Marine. Col. Read was appointed Secretary in the department thus reorganized. Joseph Pennell was then Paymaster. Col. Read continued as Secretary in the department of the Agent of Marine until the close of the war. As was before noticed he served again as Paymaster of the Navy from July, 1783, to September 14th, 1784. This was

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\*From memoranda of conversation with Col. Read made by Mr. J. R. Eckard, in 1821. I infer that he acted as Commissioner of the Navy Board from 1779.

by the persuasion of Mr. Morris who needed the assistance of one who combined so much pure integrity with extensive knowledge, and accurate habits of business.

When the war was entirely finished, and its naval accounts settled, Col. Read was appointed Inspector of Flour for the City and County of Philadelphia. He held this office from 1785 until 1803. Subsequently to this he again engaged in mercantile operations, chiefly as an importer of teas and other Chinese goods from Canton. After some years he retired from all mercantile business.

In 1783 Col. Read was appointed by the Executive Council of Pennsylvania as one of four Commissioners to settle the claims of Connecticut emigrants to large tracts of land near Wilkesbarre. In 1793 he was elected a Director of the City Library Company, and at a later time a Director of the Bank of North America. Both these offices he held until his death. He also was a Director, and, for a time, President, of the Mutual Assurance Company against Fire. Also a Director of the Insurance Company of North America, in which office I think he continued until death. For several years he was a member of the Select Council of the City of Philadelphia and would have been continued as such but he declined re-election. During the War of 1812 he was appointed by the Select Council one of a Committee to provide for the defence of the river Delaware.

In 1793, when the yellow fever visited Philadelphia so terribly, Col. Read sent away his children, but remained himself with Mrs. Read to perform whatever duties might be required at such a time of distress. At last he was attacked by the disease. When Mrs. Read perceived that he was ill she went to a stable belonging to their house where they kept a horse and chair. She harnessed the horse to the chair herself, I think, the prevalence of the pestilence making it difficult to get aid. With her assistance Col. Read got in the chair. Having fastened the windows and doors she drove into the country, not knowing where to go. They stopped at several farm houses before they found a family willing to receive them. He finally recovered.

It was about 1772 that he married Susan Correy of Philadelphia; perhaps the marriage took place a year or two earlier. She died about the year 1812. Their children were: Maria, who died aged about twenty-five; John, who died as a boy. Two others who died in infancy. I know nothing about them. Susan, who married J. F. Eckard, from St. Thomas, in the Danish West Indies, and who was, for some time, Danish Consul for the Middle States. She died at the age of 85 in 1861. James, who died in 1853, aged 70. Anna Correy, who died in 1847, aged about 55. All of these were unmarried except Mrs. Eckard.

Col. Read was for many years a communicant in the First Presbyterian Church of Philadelphia. He died in December, 1822, with a calm and confident hope in his Saviour. When lying on his death bed he was visited by his pastor, the late eminently learned Dr. James P. Wilson. Sitting down beside him, Dr. Wilson remarked that he had not come to give instruction, or to administer encouragement, but rather for the purpose of receiving

both, by seeing how a Christian could gain the victory over death. At his funeral Dr. Wilson remarked that he believed that Col. Read had sins and defects because he was human and no man on earth is free from them, but, he added that this was his only ground for making the assertion, and that, during his long intercourse with him as his pastor he had never known of any word or action on the part of the deceased which was inconsistent with his profession as a Christian.

Notwithstanding the limited advantages for education in the part of Maryland where he passed his earlier years, Col. Read was a man of superior information. His reading in English literature was extensive. By means of translations he had a very respectable knowledge of classical literature. In regard to poetry his taste was refined and elevated. His picture by Otis represents him in an attitude selected by his family as peculiarly characteristic. His spectacles are in his hand and a book lying open before him. He is supposed to be on the point of telling the family circle something instructive, or interesting, about which he has just read. The handwriting of Col. Read was uncommonly good. His account books and business papers were remarkably well and neatly kept.

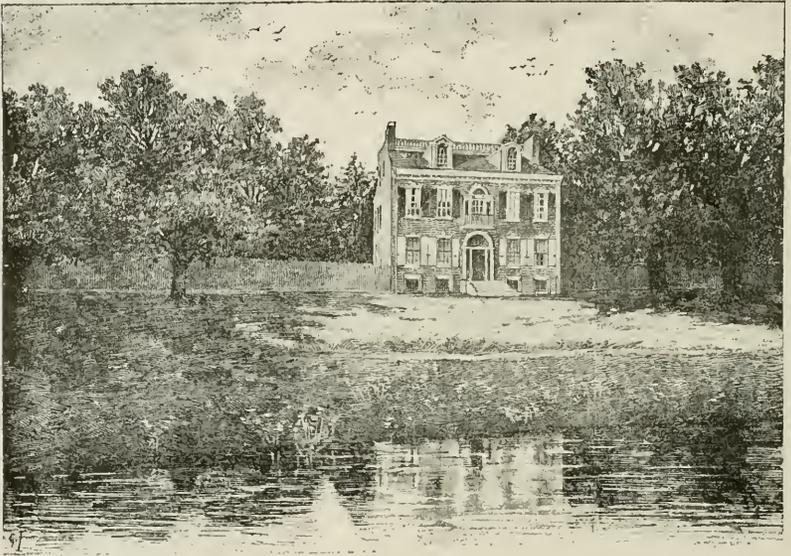
He was six feet in height, well formed and athletic. His manners were those of a gentleman of the old school. The amiability and gentleness of his character were visible in his countenance and constant deportment. In politics he was a decided old-fashioned Federalist. Confidence in and admiration for George Washington were like a master passion in his heart. Indeed, his own character was formed on the same general model as that of Washington, although, of course, decidedly inferior in ability and mental power to his great commander. There was a close resemblance between them in unambitious modesty, control of temper, disinterested patriotism, pure integrity, accuracy in business and brave energy in action. Having faithfully served his God and his country he died, as he had lived, without fear and without reproach.

#### **GEORGE READ (2d).**

Hon. George Read (2d), of Delaware, eldest surviving son of George Read, the signer, was born at New Castle the 17th of August, 1765, at the Read mansion. He married, on the 30th of October, 1786, Mary Thompson, daughter of General William Thompson, a distinguished Revolutionary officer, at the latter's country seat, near Carlisle, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Thompson was Catharine Ross, the sister of Gertrude Ross, wife of George Read, the signer. George Read (2d) was an eminent jurist, and for nearly thirty years was United States district attorney of Delaware. He was the owner of large plantations in Mississippi. He died at the Read mansion on the 3d September, 1836, and was buried at Emmanuel Church. He was a handsome, dark-haired man, of rich complexion and courtly manners. His portrait was painted by Wortmüller. He restored the Read mansion, and entertained Lafayette there most sumptuously on the latter's second visit to America.

## GEORGE READ (3d).

Hon. George Read (3d), of Delaware, son of George Read (2d), of Delaware, was born in the Read mansion, at New Castle, Delaware, June 4, 1788, and married, the 19th of April, 1810, Louisa Ridgeley Dorsey, whose family resided near Baltimore, Maryland, her father being Dr. Nathan Dorsey, a surgeon in the Revolutionary navy, who afterwards became an eminent physician in Philadelphia. After graduating at Princeton with honors, in 1806, he studied law with his father, and was called to the bar in Delaware. Distinguished as a lawyer, he was still more eminent as an



Residence of GEORGE READ 2D (1765-1836) at Newcastle, Del.

advocate and remarkable for his conversational powers, fine taste and extensive and varied literary attainments. Frank, generous, benevolent, gentle and unassuming in manner, it was said of him that the *general* regard that his many admirable qualities attracted was only surpassed by the warm attachment, much more than any man we have known, which he elicited from his *immediate* friends. His father had occupied for many years the post of United States district attorney, and he also filled that office with ability during the administrations of three of our Presidents. George Read (3d) died at the family mansion, in New Castle, on the 1st of November, 1837, and on the eve of his nomination to the United States Senate. He had constantly refused the highest State and national offices.

**GEORGE READ (4th).**

George Read<sup>1</sup> (4th), son of George Read (3d), of Delaware, was born at New Castle, 16th Oct., 1812; married, in 1844, Susan Chapman, of Virginia, and died in August, 1859, forty-seven years of age at Rossmere, near Columbia, Arkansas. He showed early aptitude for business, and was trained in the counting house of an eminent firm in Baltimore. In company with his grandfather, George Read (2d), he purchased a cotton plantation of several thousand acres in Chicot County, Arkansas, on the borders of Louisiana, which grew under his masterly touch into one of the great representative plantations of the South. He took an active part in the organization of a parish in his neighborhood, where his kindness and generosity made him the object of warm affection. He died in the communion of the Episcopal Church, of which he was a prominent member, like all of his family. He was characterized by sound judgment, foresight and energy. He was most fastidiously refined, a man of medium height, of handsome face and carriage.

**GEORGE READ (5th).**

George Read (5th), of Arkansas, eldest son of George Read (4th), of Delaware, was born at Grand Gulf, Mississippi, February, 1847, and succeeded by will to the great plantation of Rossmere, which was much damaged by the Union army during the War of the Rebellion. He married Susan Salmon, of Lynchburg, Virginia. He is also a successful cotton-planter, and a gentleman of great refinement and varied culture. His eldest son, George Read (6th), of Rossmere, died in infancy. Two children survive — Cleveland Read, born 4th July, 1884, and Alice Read, born 15th of February, 1880. George Read (5th), of Rossmere, had seven brothers and sisters; all died without issue during the lifetime of their father, except one sister and William Thompson Read, born at Rossmere, 7th October, 1857, married 7th January, 1879, Jono Saunders, of Chicot County, and has William Thompson Read, born at Rossmere 2d of April, 1880, and Earl Read, born 15th July, 1883. Mr. W. T. Read is a large and successful planter. The only surviving sister of George Read (5th) and William Thompson Read is Marion Read, who was born at Rossmere on the 3d of February, 1853; married, 10th November, 1880, F. M. Carlton, Esq., of King and Queen County, Virginia, and has George Read Carlton, born 9th July, 1883, and Marian Read Carlton, born August 1, 1884.

William Thompson Read, son of George Read (2d), of Delaware, was born in the Read mansion, at New Castle, on the 22d of August, 1792, and

<sup>1</sup>In a letter to the compiler, Alice Read, granddaughter of George Read (4th), says:

My Grandfather (George Read) married the widow Taliaferro, who was a Miss Susan Chapman, of Orange Court House, Virginia. They had three children (who lived to be more than infants) — George (my father), Marian, who married Millard Fillmore Carlton, and William Thompson, who married Antonio Saunders.

My father had four children — George, who died in infancy; Alice, Cleveland and Gertrude, all unmarried.

Aunt Marian (Mrs. Carlton) had five children — George, who married a Miss Emma Anderson; Marian, who married a Mr. Hamilton Frank (dead), and Jessie and Mattie, unmarried.

Uncle Will (William Thompson Read), had four children — William, who married a Miss Cook; Erle, unmarried; Gladys, who married John Breckenridge, and George (dead).

My mother's name was Sue Salmons, of Lynchburg, Virginia.

was baptized the 16th of September following at Emmanuel Church. He graduated at Princeton in 1816, studied law with his father and was called to the bar in Delaware. He resided at Washington for some years, and was at the head of one of the government departments, and became later secretary of the legation of the United States to Buenos Ayres, and a Senator of Delaware. He was also Grand Master of Masons of Delaware, and one of the founders of the Historical Society of Delaware. He was a man of great culture, an ardent churchman, and highly respected in all relations through life. He was the author of a life of his grandfather, George Read, the signer. He died in his mansion at New Castle on the 27th of January, 1873, having married Sally Latimer Thomas, who pre-deceased him. He left no issue. His brothers, Gunning Bedford Read and Charles Henry Read, both lawyers of great promise, died unmarried. His sister, Catherine Anne Read, who was born in 1794, in the Read mansion at New Castle, and died there in 1826, married, on the 18th of June, 1812, Dr. Allen McLane, of Wilmington, son of Colonel Allen McLane, of the Revolutionary army, and brother of the Hon. Lewis McLane, Secretary of State of the United States, and uncle of the Hon. Robert M. McLane, United States Minister to France.

William Read, first lieutenant of the United States army, born the 24th of April, 1823, at the family mansion, New Castle, Delaware, was baptized on the 4th of April, 1824, at Emmanuel Church, New Castle. He was the son of the Hon. George Read (3d), of Delaware, and Louisa Ridgeley Dorsey, his wife. He was appointed from Delaware a cadet at West Point the 1st of July, 1840; promoted to be second brevet lieutenant in the Sixth Infantry, served with distinction in the war with Mexico; was made second lieutenant of the Fifth Infantry in 1846, and first lieutenant of the same regiment in 1847; resigned 21st of July, 1850. He was Professor of Natural and Experimental Philosophy in the Kentucky Military Institute from 1851 to 1853; assistant examiner of patents at Washington from 1855 to 1861, and a plauter in Montgomery County, Maryland, from 1861 until his death in 1884. He married M. E. Beale, the granddaughter of Commodore Truxton, of the United States navy.

J. Dorsey Read, a graduate of the Naval Academy at Annapolis, was a lieutenant in the United States navy. He died in 1858. Married Maria Chapman, of Virginia, but left no descendants. He was the third son of the Hon. George Read (3d), of Delaware, and Louisa Ridgeley Dorsey, his wife.

Marian Murray Read, born at the Read mansion, New Castle, Delaware, was baptized on the 6th of May, 1811, aged three months, at Emmanuel Church, New Castle; was the eldest daughter of the Hon. George Read (3d), of Delaware, and Louisa Ridgeley Dorsey, his wife. She married James G. Martin, Esq., of North Carolina, a graduate of West Point, who attained the rank of major in the United States army, and became a major-general in the Confederate army.

James G. Martin, eldest son of James G. Martin, of North Carolina, was counselor-at-law, Asheville, North Carolina. He married Annie Davis.

Elizabeth Stark Murray Martin was the eldest daughter of James G. Martin, of North Carolina. She married William Bruce, Esq., counselor-at-law, Norfolk, Virginia.

Annie Hollingsworth Martin was the second daughter of James G. Martin, of North Carolina. She died unmarried.

Marian Martin, the youngest daughter of James G. Martin, Esq., of North Carolina, was married to Samuel Tennent, Esq., planter, Asheville, North Carolina.

Louise Gertrude Read, born at the family mansion, New Castle, Delaware, second daughter of Hon. George Read (3d), and Louisa Ridgeley Dorsey, his wife, was married to Colonel B. K. Pierce, of the United States army, brother of General Franklin Pierce, President of the United States. He commanded at Governor's Island at the time of his wife's death, which occurred in 1840. She was buried at Governor's Island, New York, having no issue.

Annie Dorsey Read, third daughter of the Hon. George Read (3d), and Louisa Ridgeley Dorsey, his wife, born at the family mansion, New Castle, Delaware, was baptized on the 2d of August, 1818, then aged three weeks, at Emmanuel Church, New Castle. She married Isaac S. K. Reeves, of the United States army, who was born in New York. He was appointed a cadet from New York to West Point in 1831, graduated in 1835, served with distinction in the Florida War, and attained the rank of major. He died prior to the Rebellion. Mrs. Reeves resided in one of the old Read mansions at New Castle, Delaware, and had the following children: Keith Reeves, only son, an engineer in the United States navy, who married Henrietta Young and has four children—Keith, Marian, Joan and Joseph; Marian Legare Reeves, a well-known authoress, who wrote under the *nom de plume* of Fadette, the following novels: "Ingemisco," "Randolph Honour" and "Wearie Thorne," and in connection with her aunt, Miss Emily Read, of New Castle, published "Old Martin Boscawen's Jest."

Annie Dorsey Reeves married the Hon. John H. Rodney, of New Castle, a great grandnephew of the Hon. Cæsar Rodney, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and has six sons and two daughters.

Caroline E. Reeves married Wm. S. Potter, Esq., a planter in Cecil County, Maryland, and has four sons and five daughters. Caroline married Rev. W. Rede; Dorsey Read married May Wheat; William married Mabel Dunham; Marian Legare; Emily Read married Wm. Fontaine Alexander (of the Geo. Washington family); Annie Dorsey married Francis Taylor; Julia Ross unmarried; Nathaniel and Knight both unmarried.

Caroline Read, fourth daughter of Hon. George Read (3d), of Delaware, and Louisa Ridgeley Dorsey, his wife, born at the family mansion, New Castle, Delaware, was baptized on the 22d of July, 1820, at Emmanuel Church, New Castle. She married, on the 31st of March, 1840, Major-General William H. French, of the United States army, a graduate of West Point in 1837, a distinguished officer of the United States army during the Rebellion. He was born on the 3d of January, 1815, at Baltimore, Maryland. He retired in July, 1880, as Colonel of the Fourth Artillery, with rank of major-general. He died on the 20th of May, 1881, at Washington. His wife, Caroline Read, died on the 26th of September, 1884, at Blue Ridge Summit, Franklin County, Pennsylvania. They left the following issue:

Lieutenant-Colonel Frank Sands French, born in 1841, at Houlton, Maine, entered the United States army, 1861, as second-lieutenant of artillery,

and was made captain and brevet lieutenant-colonel for gallant and meritorious conduct during the war; died 4th September, 1865, at New Castle, Delaware, of wounds received at the battle of Antietam; unmarried.

William Henry French of the United States army, born 17th July, 1844, at Newport, Rhode Island, while his father was stationed at Fort Adams. He married Emily Ott in 1879, and has three daughters.

Lieutenant Frederick Halverson French, a graduate of West Point in 1877, second lieutenant United States army same year; first lieutenant 1860; retired January, 1885; unmarried.

Lieutenant George Ross French, United States navy, born 8th July, 1857, at Fort McHenry, Baltimore, Maryland, while his father was stationed there; a graduate of the Academy, Annapolis, in 1880; midshipman of the United States navy in 1882; ensign, June, 1884; married, in Baltimore, 26th of March, 1885, Elizabeth Hollingsworth, daughter of Charles Findlay, Esq. Mrs. French was born the 17th of November, 1856. They have one son, Findlay French.

Annie Read French, born the 24th of May, 1853, at Tampa, Hillsborough County, Fla., while her father was stationed there; married, the 24th of May, 1875, to Captain John L. Clem, of the United States army. He was born at Newark, Licking County, Ohio, in 1853, entered the United States army in 1862 as a drummer-boy, and distinguished himself in the battles of Chickamauga and Shiloh, and became famous as the "Drummer-boy of Chickamauga," and for his distinguished services and gallantry was appointed, when only ten years of age, a sergeant in the United States army; became second lieutenant in 1870, first lieutenant in 1874, and captain and assistant quartermaster in 1882. They have one son, John Clem.

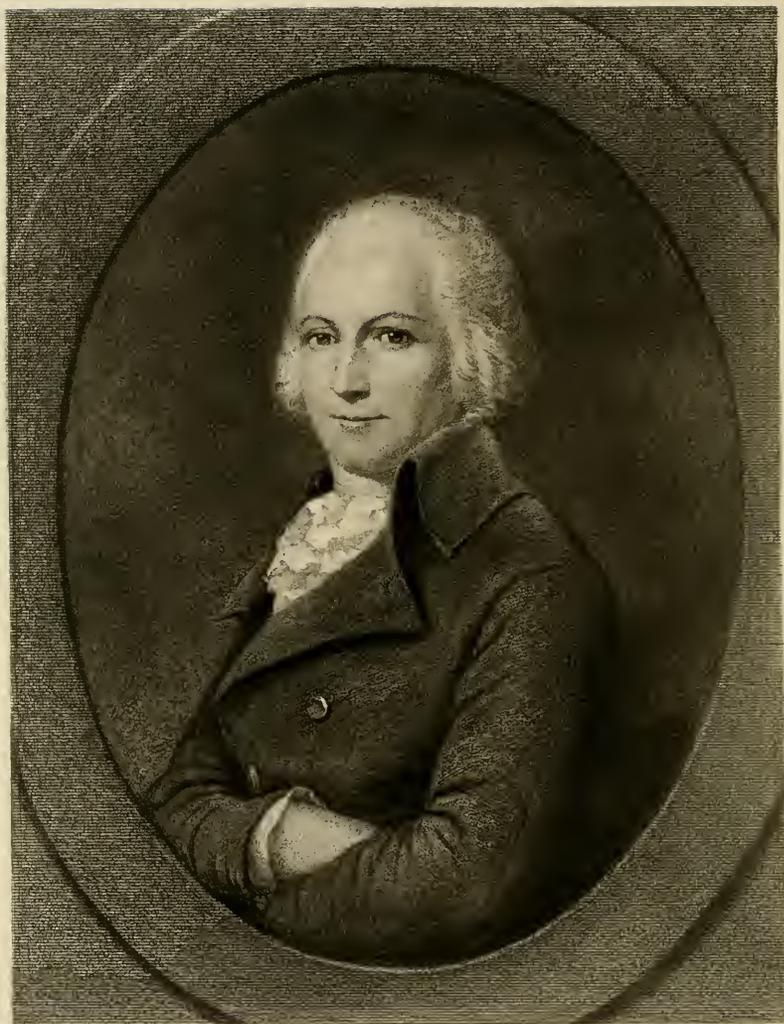
Rosalie French, born 4th June, 1861, at New Castle, Delaware, married Lieutenant J. Conklin, of the United States army.

Julia Rush Read, fifth daughter of the Hon. George Read (3d), of Delaware and Louisa Ridgely Dorsey, his wife, born at the family mansion, New Castle, Delaware, and married General Samuel Jones of Virginia, who graduated at West Point, and attained the rank of captain in the United States army. He became a major-general in the Confederate army, and commanded during the Rebellion the Departments of South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama and Florida. They have one child, Emily Read Jones, who is unmarried.

Emily Read, sixth daughter of the Hon. George Read (3d), of Delaware and Louisa Ridgely Dorsey, his wife, was born at the family mansion, New Castle, Delaware, where she resided for many years. She has contributed to the *Encyclopædia Britannica*, and has produced anonymously "Life in New Sweden Two Hundred Years Ago." She is also the authoress, in conjunction with her late niece, Miss Marian Reeves, of "Old Martin Boscawen's Jest," and "Pilot Fortune."

Lieutenant John Alexander Lockwood, of the United States army, Professor of Military Tactics at the University of Michigan, is the son of Dr. John Alexander Lockwood, born at Dover, Delaware, in 1812, by his wife, Julia Read McLane, born 21st of February, 1818, at Wilmington, Delaware, married the 20th of October, 1840, died the 21st of November, 1880, at Washington, D. C.





PAINTED BY THOMAS SADDY

ENGRAVED BY W. BARDELL

*The Honorable John Read*  
1769 - 1831

Lieutenant Lockwood was born on the 30th of October, 1856, at Dresden, Saxony, Germany. He is the grandson of Dr. Allen McLane and his wife, Catharine Anne Read, and fifth in descent from George Read, of Delaware, the signer. His sister, Florence Lockwood, born at Florence, Italy, the 26th of April, 1853, married, the 17th of February, 1878, Captain Charles Alfred Booth, of the United States army.

#### HON. WILLIAM READ.

William Read, of Philadelphia, consul-general of the Kingdom of Naples, was the second son of George Read, the signer, of Delaware. He was born in the Read mansion, New Castle, Delaware, October 10, 1767, and died in his own mansion, at Philadelphia, September 25, 1846. He was married, at Christ Church, Philadelphia, on the 22d of September, 1796, by Bishop White, to Anne McCall, daughter of Archibald McCall and Judith Kemble, his wife. Mrs. Read was born on the 2d of May, 1772, and died the 17th of July, 1845. Mr. William Read, who removed to Philadelphia at an early age, was, for many years, consul-general of the Kingdom of Naples, and represented several other foreign powers. He was a brother of George Read (2d), of New Castle, and of the Hon. John Read, of Philadelphia. He resided in an ancient and spacious mansion on Second street, then the most fashionable part of Philadelphia. His eldest son, George Read, of Pennsylvania, was born in Philadelphia, on the 10th of June, 1797, in the large mansion in Second street, three doors above Spruce, on the west side. In accordance with the ancient family usage, he was taken to New Castle, Delaware, and christened on the 29th of October, 1797, in Emmanuel Church, of which his great-grandfather, the Rev. George Ross, was the first rector in 1703. Mr. Read resided nearly forty years in Spain, first going thither on the 10th of October, 1817. He was for a long time United States consul in that Kingdom. He died some years ago, and in his ninety-second year was extremely active in his habits, and his anecdotes were at that time as interesting and his wit as vivacious as in his earlier years. He was unmarried. His three brothers.—William Archibald Read, a planter near New Orleans; John Read, a prominent lawyer of Philadelphia; and Samuel McCall Read, also a planter near New Orleans, Louisiana—died without issue. His only sister, Mary Read, born the 16th of June, 1799, died the 17th of July, 1875; married, in 1827, Coleman Fisher, of Philadelphia, son of Samuel and grandson of William Fisher. Mr. Fisher was born in Philadelphia in 1793, and died there the 4th of March, 1857. Their children are the present William Read Fisher, Esq., of Philadelphia; Elizabeth Rhodes Fisher, who married Eugene A. Livingston, Esq., of Livingston Manor, New York, and died in 1877; Sally West Fisher and Mary Read Fisher. The eldest son, Coleman P. Fisher, a distinguished engineer, died some years ago unmarried. Mrs. Livingston left one son and two daughters.

#### HON. JOHN READ.

The Hon. John Read, of Pennsylvania, an eminent lawyer, financier and philanthropist, and one of the leaders of the Federal party, was the fourth son of George Read, of Delaware, a signer of the Declaration of Independ-

dence, and a framer and signer of the Constitution of the United States. The eldest son, John, named in honor of his grandfather, had died in infancy, and the fourth son received the same name, and consequently seemed to take the place of his elder brother. His mother, Gertrude Ross, was the daughter of the Rev. George Ross, Rector of Emmanuel Church, New Castle, a graduate of the University of Edinburgh in 1700, and of the Divinity School in 1702, who having been ordained by the Bishop of London, became one of the founders of the Church of England in America. Mr. Ross was born in 1679 and died in 1754. His daughter, Mrs. Read, was beautiful in person, her manners were refined and gracious, and her piety was shown in a constant succession of charitable deeds. As her pious father expressed it in his autobiography, the family escutcheon was without spot or stain. Her grandfather, David Ross, Esquire, of Balblair, was a descendant, through the house of Balmachy, of the ancient family of the Earls of Ross. Her eldest brother, John Ross, had preceded her husband as attorney-general; a younger brother, George Ross, was a distinguished judge and a signer of the Declaration of Independence, while the patriotic sermons of another brother, the Rev. Æneas Ross (an eloquent divine of the Church of England, who had received his degrees at Oxford), had fired the heart of the colonies at the opening of the Revolution.

John Read was born in the Read mansion, New Castle, Delaware, on the 17th of July, 1769. He graduated at Princeton in 1787, studied law with his father, was called to the bar and removed to Philadelphia in 1789, where he married in 1796, Martha Meredith, eldest daughter of General Samuel Meredith, member of the Continental Congress, first Treasurer of the United States, and an intimate friend of General Washington, thus connecting the ancient families of Read and Meredith. George Clymer, a signer of the Declaration of Independence and a framer of the Constitution of the United States, was Mrs. Read's uncle. Her mother was the daughter of Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, of the Supreme Executive Council of Pennsylvania, and the sister of General John Cadwalader, whose daughter Fanny married Lord Erskine, and Colonel Lambert Cadwalader. Her brother-in-law, General Philemon Dickinson, commanded the New Jersey forces at the Millstone and at the battle of Monmouth, and John Dickinson, author of the "Farmer's Letters," was her cousin. Mrs. Read's grandfather, Reese Meredith, the son of Reese Meredith, Esquire, of the county of Radnor, was born in Wales in 1705, removed to Philadelphia in 1727, and married the granddaughter of Samuel Carpenter, owner of the "Slate Roof House," the partner of William Penn and one of the executors of his will. Reese Meredith sprang from the very ancient Cambrian family of Meredith, to which belong Lord Athlumney, Baron Meredith and the Merediths, Baronets of Greenhills and Carlandstown, County Meath. He was one of the wealthiest men of his day; his town house was in Walnut street below Second; his country seat was on the west bank of the Schuylkill opposite Fairmount. His son, General Meredith, resided in a large mansion on the north side of Chestnut street, two doors above Fifth, opposite Independence Hall. His country seats were Greenhills, Philadelphia County; Otter Hall, near Trenton, New Jersey, and Belmont, near the present town of Scranton, Pennsylvania.

John Read was appointed by President John Adams, in 1797, Agent General of the United States under Jay's Treaty. He filled this important office with marked ability also under the administration of President Thomas Jefferson, and until its termination in 1809, and published a valuable volume entitled "British Debts." He was City Solicitor, a member of the Common and Supreme Councils of Philadelphia, and took an active part in the defense of the Delaware during the War of 1812. He was also a member of the Pennsylvania Legislature, and chairman of the Committee of Seventeen in 1816. He was Senator from 1816 to 1817; was appointed by the legislative body State Director of the Philadelphia Bank, and on the retirement of his wife's uncle, George Clymer, the signer, in 1819, became President of that bank, which office he held until 1841. He was also the president of many other important corporations. An active, wise and liberal churchman, he constantly figured in the national councils of the Episcopal Church, and he was for many years Rector's warden of Christ Church, St. Peter's and St. James'. He died at Trenton, New Jersey, on the 13th July, 1854, in the eighty-sixth year of his age, and was buried in the Read vault, Christ Church, Philadelphia. He was the father of the Hon. John Meredith Read, Chief Justice of Pennsylvania. His humanity and philanthropy were largely manifested during the terrible outbreak of yellow fever in Philadelphia, in 1793, when he contributed liberally from his purse, and exposed his life throughout the entire course of that epidemic in behalf of his suffering fellow-citizens.

Mr. Read had three sons, Chief Justice John Meredith Read, of Pennsylvania; Edward Read, who died in infancy, and Henry Meredith Read, M. A., M. D. The latter was born at his father's mansion in Chestnut street, Philadelphia, on the 31st October, 1802; graduated at Princeton in 1820, and at the Medical School of the University of Pennsylvania in 1823. He was a man of brilliant promise, but died prematurely and unmarried on the 16th of March, 1828, in the twenty-sixth year of his age. Mr. Read's daughters were Margaret Meredith, born 6th May, 1800, and died in 1802, and Margaret Meredith Read, born 7th April, 1806, and died, unmarried, the 13th March, 1854. The latter was a lady of remarkable accomplishments, and a general favorite in society. Mr. Read's children were all taken in infancy to New Castle to be christened at Emmanuel Church, in accordance with ancient family usage.

Mr. Read's spacious mansion stood on the south side of Chestnut street, between Seventh and Eighth streets, Philadelphia, surrounded with gardens, wherein tulips bloomed in profusion, running back to his stables which fronted on Sansom street. To this hospitable house resorted all the wealth and fashion of the early part of the century. Mr. Read, like his father and grandfather, was a collector and reader of rare books. His reading was extended and profound, and his memory was remarkably retentive, and always obedient to his call. He related with dramatic force the incidents of his childhood, which was passed among the most stirring scenes of the Revolution.

Mr. Read's miniature by an unknown but admirable artist, represents him at the age of twenty-five. The oil painting by Sully gives an idea of him in

his more mature years. Unlike his paternal and maternal family, he was not above the medium height, but he had the refined but strongly defined features of the Reads, and he inherited their courtly and agreeable manners.

### CHIEF JUSTICE JOHN MEREDITH READ.

The Hon. John Meredith Read, LL. D., "a great jurist and a wise statesman," was the son of the Hon. John Read, of Pennsylvania, grandson of the Hon. George Read, of Delaware, and the great-grandson of Col. John Read, of Maryland and Delaware. He was born in the mansion of his grandfather, General Samuel Meredith, to whom his parents were then paying a visit, in Chestnut street, two doors above Fifth street, opposite Independence Hall, on the 21st of July, 1797; and he died in Philadelphia, on the 29th of November, 1874, in the seventy-eighth year of his age. He graduated at the University of Pennsylvania at the age of fifteen, in 1812; was called to the bar in 1818; elected to the Pennsylvania Legislature in 1822, and again in 1823; and afterwards became city solicitor and member of the select council, and drew up the first clear exposition of the finances of Philadelphia. He was appointed United States District Attorney of the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, in 1837, and held that office eight years. He was also Judge Advocate on the Court of Enquiry on Commodore Elliot, Solicitor-General of the Treasury Department, and Attorney-General of Pennsylvania. Although his family were eminent and powerful Federalists, he early became a Democrat and was one of the founders of the Free Soil wing of that party. This militated against him when he was nominated to the Senate in 1845, as Judge of the Supreme Court of the United States; for the Southern senators opposed his confirmation, and he consequently requested the President to withdraw his name. He was one of the earliest, most ardent and effective upholders of the annexation of Texas, and the building of railways to the Pacific. He powerfully assisted Andrew Jackson in his war against the United States Bank, and yet after its downfall Mr. Nicholas Biddle came to him and begged him to be his counsel. In the celebrated trial of Castner Hanway, for treason, Judge Read was engaged with Thaddeus Stevens and Judge Joseph J. Lewis, for the defendant, and made such a masterly argument that Mr. Stevens said he could add nothing, for his colleague's speech had settled the law of treason in this country. This great triumph gave Judge Read an international reputation, and English jurists paid the highest compliments to his genius and learning. He showed his repugnance for slavery in the Democratic Convention held in Pittsburgh in 1849, where he offered a resolution against the extension of slavery, which concluded with these remarkable words: "Esteeming it a violation of States rights to carry it (slavery) beyond State limits, we deny the power of any citizen to extend the area of bondage beyond the present dimension; nor do we consider it a part of the Constitution that slavery should forever travel with the advancing column of our territorial progress."

Holding these strong views he naturally became one of the founders of the Republican party, and he delivered at the Chinese Museum, in Philadelphia, at the beginning of the electoral campaign in 1856, his celebrated speech upon the "power of Congress over slavery in the territories." This struck



*John M. Read*

**THE HON. JOHN MEREDITH READ, LL.D.,**

CHIEF JUSTICE OF PENNSYLVANIA

Son of Hon. John Read of Penn<sup>a</sup>, grandson of George Read of Delaware "the Signer" and great-grandson of Col John Read of Maryland & Delaware. Born opposite Independence Hall in Chestnut Street, Phil<sup>a</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> July, 1797, and in accordance with ancient usage in his family, christened at Immanuel Church, New Castle, Delaware, of which his great-grandfather was the first Rector in 1703. He married 1<sup>st</sup> Priscilla, daughter of Hon J Marshall of Boston, 20<sup>th</sup> March 1828, who was born 19<sup>th</sup> Dec 1808, and died 18<sup>th</sup> April 1841. 2<sup>nd</sup> in 1855, Amelia, daughter of Edward Thomson Esq, who died 14<sup>th</sup> September 1886, aged 75. Chief Justice Read died at Phil<sup>a</sup> 39<sup>th</sup> of November 1874, in his 78<sup>th</sup> year, and was buried in the Read Vault, Christ Church, Phil<sup>a</sup>, leaving an only son by his first wife - General John Meredith Read.

PAST GRAND MASTER OF THE GRAND LODGE OF PENNSYLVANIA



a keynote which resounded throughout the country, and his discourse formed the text of the oratorical efforts of the Republican party. It was under his lead that the Republican party gained its first victory in Pennsylvania, for he carried that State in the autumn of 1858, as a candidate for Judge of the Supreme Court, by nearly 30,000 majority. This brought him prominently forward as a candidate for the presidency of the United States, and Mr. Lincoln's friends proposed to nominate Judge Read for President, with Mr. Lincoln for Vice-President. This arrangement was destroyed by the defeat of Judge Read's supporters by the friends of the Hon. Simon Cameron, in the Pennsylvania Republican Convention, in February, 1860. Nevertheless Judge Read received a number of votes in the Chicago Convention, although he had thrown his influence in favor of his friend, Mr. Lincoln. The decisions of Judge Read run through forty-one volumes of reports. In whatever branch of the law a question arose, he met and disposed of it with a like able grasp and learning. He was familiar with civil and criminal law, and their practice; with international and municipal laws, with law and equity, with the titles, limitations, and descents of real and personal estates, with wills, legacies, and intestacies; with the Constitution, charters, and statutes of the United States, the States and all our cities. His opinion was adopted as the basis of the Act of March 3, 1863, authorizing the President during the Rebellion to suspend the writ of habeas corpus; and throughout the country his talents and his influence were constantly enlisted in behalf of the general government, and all his decisions were governed by the ardent and lofty patriotism which characterizes his conduct through life. He relieved the American Philosophical Society from arbitrary taxation by deciding that the land in Independence Square, on which its hall stands, was granted by the State forever for public uses; and, as it could not be sold by any form of execution, no taxes could consequently be a lien upon it. His judgment also placed the public buildings of Philadelphia on their present site. Another famous decision was that refusing an injunction to prevent the running of the passenger tramways on Sunday. He could not consent to stop the "poor man's carriage, the passenger car." Many thousand copies of this opinion were printed in the East and West, and it carried public opinion with it wherever it was read. His associate on the Supreme Bench, Judge Williams, in his address to the bar of Philadelphia, said: "Chief Justice Read possessed talents and learning of a very high order, and his personal and official influence were very great. He was a gentleman in every sense of the word; a gentleman of the old school, of the very highest sense of honor, of great dignity of character, and in social intercourse kind, affable and courteous. He was a true friend, strong and unswerving in his attachments, ready to make any sacrifice for his friends, and when they were in trouble he was untiring in his efforts to serve them. He was a man of the strictest integrity, and despised everything that was low and vile. With him the equity and justice of the case was the law of the case. He was a man of chivalrous courage, persistent purpose, and inflexible will. He did not know what fear is." A partial list of Chief Justice Read's published writings are to be found in Allibone's "Dictionary of Authors," and his merits as a lawyer and a judge were ably and eloquently portrayed by the

Hon. Eli K. Price, in his discourse upon Chief Justice Read, before the American Philosophical Society. "Judge Read was one of the last of the great Philadelphia lawyers, for he was a leader among such men as the Sergeants, Binney, Chauncey, the Rawles and the Ingersolls." In speaking of his inherited qualities, Colonel Forney said: "Chief Justice Read belonged to a race of strong men. He was a man of the most marked individuality, and was constantly engaged in originating useful measures for the welfare of the General and State Governments, and his amendments formed an essential part of the constitutions of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and his ideas were formulated in many of the statutes of the United States which owed their existence to him. He was contented to create useful legislation which smaller men often fathered. He never sought office, and frequently refused the highest national posts.

Chief Justice Read was Grand Master of Masons of Pennsylvania, his grandfather, Dr. Thomas Cadwalader, having been one of the founders of Masonry in that Province, and members of his family, the Reads, having filled the highest offices in Masonry in Delaware.

There are many portraits of Chief Justice Read. One hangs in Masonic Hall, in the gallery of Grand Masters; another adorns the Supreme Court room in Philadelphia, and another hangs in the Philadelphia Law Library, but perhaps the best likeness is a miniature by J. Henry Brown, which was admirably engraved by Samuel Sartain. This engraving was copied in the *London Graphic*, in connection with a spirited notice of Chief Justice Read, written by his kinsman, Charles Reade, the famous novelist.

Chief Justice Read married first, Priscilla, daughter of Hon. J. Marshall, of Boston, on the 20th of March, 1828; Mrs. Read, who was born the 19th of December, 1808, died in Philadelphia on the 18th of April, 1841. She was the granddaughter of Lieutenant Marshall, of the Revolutionary army, and eighth in descent from a captain in Cromwell's army, who was promoted for conspicuous services at the siege of Leicester, and at the battles of Marston Moor and Naseby. Mrs. Read and her sister Emily Marshall, afterwards Mrs. William Foster Otis, of Boston, were the most celebrated belles of their day. By his first wife Chief Justice Read had six daughters, of whom only one survived infancy, viz., Emily Marshall Read, who married, in 1849, William Henry Hyde, Esq., and died in 1854, leaving an only daughter, Emma H. Hyde, who married George W. Wurts, esq., First Secretary of Legation and *Chargé d' Affairs* of the United States, at Rome, and died at Rome without issue.

By his first wife, *née* Marshall, Chief Justice Read had also an only son — General John Meredith Read, late United States minister to Greece.

Chief Justice Read married secondly in 1865, Amelia, daughter of Edward Thomson, Esq., and sister of Hon. John R. Thomson, United States Senator from New Jersey, and of Admiral Edward Thomson of the United States navy.

Chief Justice Read died at Philadelphia, on the 29th of November, 1874, in his seventy-eighth year. His widow, Mrs. Amelia Thomson Read, survived him twelve years, dying the 14th of September, 1886, without issue.





GENERAL JOHN MEREDITH READ,

Born in Philadelphia 21<sup>st</sup> February 1837

Died 27<sup>th</sup> December 1896, Paris, France

FIRST U.S. CONSUL GENERAL FOR FRANCE 1869-1872

U.S. MINISTER TO GREECE 1873-1879.

## GENERAL JOHN MEREDITH READ.

General John Meredith Read, Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Redeemer of Greece, F. S. A., M. R. I. A., F. R. G. S., son of Chief Justice John Meredith Read, of Pennsylvania, grandson of Hon. John Read, of Pennsylvania, and great-grandson of George Read, of Delaware, the signer of the Declaration of Independence, and fifth in descent from Colonel John Read, of Maryland and Delaware, was born on the 21st of February, 1837, at his father's residence, 85 South Sixth street, Washington Square, Philadelphia, and received his education at a military school. Graduated at Brown University, Master of Arts, 1859; at the Albany Law School, LL. B.; studied civil and international law in Europe; was called to the bar in Philadelphia; and removed to Albany, New York. At the age of eighteen he commanded a company of national cadets, which afterwards furnished many commissioned officers to the United State Army during the Rebellion. At the age of twenty he was appointed aide-de-camp to the Governor of Rhode Island, with the rank of colonel. He engaged actively in the presidential campaign of 1856, and in 1860 organized the Wideawake movement in New York which carried the State in favor of Mr. Lincoln for the presidency.

Having been offered shortly afterwards a foreign appointment, or the office of Adjutant-general of the State of New York, he accepted the latter, with the rank of Brigadier-General, at the age of twenty-three. In February, 1861, he was chairman of the



HERALDIC ACHIEVEMENT OF GENERAL MEREDITH READ AS A KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF THE REDEEMER.

government commission which welcomed President Lincoln at Buffalo, and escorted him by a special train to the capital. In January of that year, in conjunction with Governor Morgan, he urged the appropriation of half a million of dollars by the Legislature to place the State of New York upon a war footing. This wise precaution was not taken by that body, which did not perceive that a struggle for national existence was imminent. But two months later, when the news of the firing upon Fort Sumter reached the north, General Read was appointed chairman of a committee of three to draft a bill appropriating three millions of dollars for the purchase of arms and equipments; and he afterwards received the thanks of the War Department of the United States for his "energy, ability and zeal," in the organization and equipment of troops during the war, including the inspection and care of the wounded. Like most of those who were earnestly engaged on either side during the war of the Rebellion, Gen-

eral Read considered that when the war was finished animosity should entirely cease, and he was always a strong friend of the South, where his family originated, and where many of his connections have always resided. In 1868 he took a leading part in the election of General Grant to the presidency, who appointed him Consul-General of the United States for France and Algeria, to reside at Paris — a newly created post — which he was called upon to organize in all its various details. General Read likewise acted as



GENERAL MEREDITH READ, at the age of 23, as Adjutant-General of the State of New York, at the breaking out of the Rebellion. Taken from a photograph of the time.

Consul-General of Germany during the Franco-Prussian war, and directed, during a period of more than nineteen months, all the consular affairs of that empire in France, including the protection of German subjects and interests during the first and second sieges of Paris, 1870-71.

Upon the declaration of war Mr. Washburne was requested to act as Minister for Germany, and Baron Rothschild at the same time having resigned the office of German Consul-General. General Read was requested to act as Consul-General for Germany in France and Algeria. On the 17th

of June, 1871, Mr. Washburne surrendered his charge of German affairs to Lieutenant-Colonel Count Waldersee, the new *Chargé d' Affaires* of the German empire near the French government, Mr. Washburne having acted for ten months and a half. At the request of Count Bismarck and the French government, General Read consented to continue to act as Consul-General; and both sides acknowledged that his consenting to do so, with the thirty-five consuls and consular agents under him, prevented the possibility of a renewal of the conflict between the two countries, by rendering unnecessary the presence in France of German consular officials at a time when the minds of the French people were highly excited against all Germans. At this period the German Ambassador, in an official letter to General Read, said: "I cannot omit to express to you once more the sentiments of gratitude with which I am inspired by the persevering solicitude which you have never ceased to manifest in procuring for my compatriots the protection of the laws." As Vapereau, in his *Biographical Dictionary*, says: "Upon the declaration of the Franco-Prussian war, General Read was charged with interests of German subjects in France, and employed himself usefully during nearly two years in preventing the possibility of a renewal of the conflict;" and Gambetta declared that while General Read was shut up in Paris during the two sieges, he employed himself actively in relieving the distress of the French population. His kindness to the French was also warmly acknowledged by the Parisian press of all parties. His unremitting efforts in behalf of his own countrymen were universally recognized in the American press, and his attention to persons of other nationalities were warmly praised by the principal organs of the English press. For these various services he received the commendation of the President of the United States, General Grant, in his annual message to Congress on the 4th of December, 1871, which was couched in the following language:

"The resumption of diplomatic relations between France and Germany has enabled me to give directions for the withdrawal of the protection extended to Germans in France by the diplomatic and consular representatives of the United States in that country. It is just to add that the delicate duty of this protection has been performed by the Minister and Consul-General at Paris and the various consuls in France, under the supervision of the latter, with great kindness, as well as with prudence and tact. Their course has received the commendation of the German government, and has wounded no susceptibilities of the French."

He also received the repeated thanks of both the French and German governments, and the official and personal thanks of Prince Bismarck. The Emperor himself desired to confer upon him an order of knighthood, and to present to him a rare and costly service of Dresden china. The joint resolution sent to Congress for the purpose of allowing diplomatic and consular representatives in France to receive these marks of esteem from the Emperor of Germany having failed through the objection and the personal feeling of Mr. Sumner towards Mr. Washburne, the Emperor's intentions could not be carried out. Four years after General Read had ceased to act as Consul-General for Germany, Prince Bismarck sent him his likeness with a complimentary autograph dedication. On a later occasion the German government again took occasion to show its appreciation of General Read's ser-

vices by directing its representative at Athens to give the American representative there the precedence. In France his popularity was great, and in 1872 he was invited by General de Cissey, French Minister of War, to form and preside over a commission to examine into the expediency of extending the study of the English language in the French army; and for his successful labors in this direction he again received the thanks of the French government. In recognition of his various services he was appointed on the 7th of November, 1873, United States Minister to Greece. During his mission there, which covered a period of six years, he received the thanks of his government for his ability and energy in securing the release of the American ship "Armenia," and for his success in obtaining from the Greek government a revocation of the order prohibiting the sale and circulation of the Bible in Greece. He also received the thanks of the Board of Foreign Missions of the Southern Presbyterian Church, and of the British and American Foreign Bible Societies. During the great financial crisis in America in 1876-77, while studying at Athens the commercial situation, he became possessed of secret and valuable information from Russia and England, which convinced him that America could regain her national prosperity at a bound. He accordingly addressed the following despatch to the Secretary of State, pointing out that the Russo-Turkish war had closed every grain port in Russia except one, and that America could actually deliver wheat at that point at a less price than the Russians, owing to the latter's heavy duties and their want of facilities for handling grain:

To the Hon. William M. Evarts, Secretary of State, Washington, D. C.:

No. 205.

Corfu, Greece, July 23, 1877.

Sir.—It seems to me, that in the present condition of affairs in the United States, it is very desirable to direct the attention of our people to what the English call "the corn trade," which includes all cereals. The present war has closed all the ports of Southern Russia, and although there is an abundant harvest in that great country, it can find no outlet, for two reasons: First, On account of the single line railway system, which prevails throughout the Russian Empire. Many loads of grain are lying blocked at various stations on the different railways, and in many rich districts the crops will rot upon the ground for lack of means of transportation. Second, Because the port of Riga is really the only one which remains open. Owing to various causes, very well understood with us, cereals delivered at this point in ordinary times cost in the neighborhood of fifteen per cent more than grain delivered on ship-board in our country. Even at the best moment, owing to customs difficulties and lack of mechanical means, ships loading at Russian ports were subjected to at least seven day's delay. Whereas, with our "elevators," and our comparatively easy customs regulations, no time is lost in our ports. If we can once succeed in diverting this trade it will never return to its old channels.

This point has been already seized upon by certain shrewd British capitalists, and I have reliable information to the effect that six large iron vessels of thirty-eight hundred tons burthen are now being built, four of them in the Clyde—for the transportation of breadstuffs, on English account, to the United States. By a prompt movement we might secure the English, French, and Italian markets, and command a trade which would greatly enhance our national wealth, and give money and employment to a large number of our population.

I write in haste to bring this important subject to the immediate attention of the Department, but my facts and my conclusions may be entirely relied upon. They are the result of wide inquiries and long study. We ought to strain every nerve, not only to furnish the world with breadstuffs, but also the ships to carry them.

I have, &c., &c.,

JOHN MEREDITH READ.



*Portrait of General James FitzGerald, 1st Viscount of FitzGerald, 1840.*

GENERAL, JOHN RUSSELL, 1ST EARL OF RUSSELL,

KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF THE ROYAL ORDER OF THE REDEEMER,  
IN ENGLISH COURT COSTUME, AND WEARING THE INSIGNIA OF THAT ORDER



General Read's suggestion was taken up, and the exports of breadstuffs and provisions from America rose within a twelvemonth seventy-three millions of dollars, thus giving a grain supremacy upon which the subsequent prosperity of America was substantially based. General Read revisited his native country in 1874, and was received with the warmest demonstrations of welcome by all political parties, banquets being given in his honor at Washington, Philadelphia and New York, while at Albany an imposing dinner was given to him by the citizens irrespective of party, over which the mayor presided. On the latter occasion General Read spoke in the warmest terms of the services rendered during the Franco-German war by the consuls who served under him, by his deputy, Mr. Franklin Olden Olcott, and his secretaries, Mr. Thirion and Mr. David Fuller, and by the *personnel* of the consulate-general.

In England he was the recipient of marked courtesy at the hands of the Queen and the leading members of the royal family. For his literary and scientific services he received the thanks of the State Department of the United States, of the National Academy of Design, of the English



33° JEWEL AND EAGLE.

East India Company, of the Russia Company, of the Society of Antiquaries of London, of the Archaeological Society of Greece, and of the French Academy. He took a deep interest in the foundation of the French Association for the Advancement of Science. He was President of the American Social Science Congress at Albany in 1868, and Vice-President of the British Social Science Congress at Plymouth in 1870. He was an honorary member of a great number of learned societies. He had received the Thirty-second Degree in Masonry in America, and Greece conferred upon him the highest, namely, the Thirty-third. He made a series of rich collections of unpublished historical documents in each country which he has visited. Among the more remarkable were those upon the Franco-German war, including the siege and the commune; upon modern and mediæval Greece; upon the Colonial and Revolutionary War of America, and upon English history and antiquities. During a visit to Switzerland in 1879, he discovered a series of important unpublished letters from many of the most distinguished men in Europe of the eighteenth century, including Voltaire, Rousseau, Gibbon, Frederick the Great, and Malesherbes. He was the author of many public addresses, official reports, learned papers, and an important historical inquiry concerning Henry Hudson, originally delivered in the form of the first anni-

versary discourse before the Historical Society of Delaware, and published at Albany in 1866, which received the highest commendation from the most eminent scholars in Europe and America. An abridged edition of this work was published at Edinburgh in 1882 by the Clarendon Historical Society. In 1876 his letter upon the death of his friend, the eminent historian, Lord Stanhope, was published in Athens in Greek and English. General Read, as United States Minister, received the thanks of his government for his prompt and efficient protection of American persons and interests in the dangerous crisis in Greece in February, 1878. Shortly afterwards, the United States Congress having, from motives of economy, suppressed the appropriation for the Legation at Athens, General Read, at the suggestion of the State Department, and at the earnest request of the King and the minister of foreign affairs of Greece, consented to continue to act, and carried on the diplomatic representation at that court at his own expense until the 23d of September, 1879, when he resigned. On this occasion the Secretary of State addressed to him an official dispatch expressing the extreme regret of the United States government at his retirement, and concluding thus: "The manner in which you have conducted the duties as minister of this government in Greece has been such as to merit hearty approval; and the patriotic sacrifices which you have made in order to secure, without interruption, the representation of the United States in that country, entitle you to the respect and commendation of your countrymen. It gives me great pleasure to repeat the frequently expressed satisfaction with which this government has regarded your conduct of the interests entrusted to you during a period of eleven years in the foreign service of the country, and my own sincere concurrence therewith. Your performance of the delicate and important duties of Consul-General in Paris during the Franco-German war was such as to call forth the approbation not only of your own government, but also of the French and German authorities; and your subsequent service as a diplomatic representative of the United States in Greece has received the frequent commendation of this government. While the government is thus unfortunately deprived of your services in an important capacity, I cannot but hope that you will still have many years of happiness and usefulness before you, and that your country may continue to enjoy your active interest in all that concerns its prosperity." The official organ of the Prime Minister of Greece expressed its opinions in the highest terms, saying: "The departure of General Read from Greece has called forth universal regrets. He has become one of the most remarkable authorities in all matters relating to the Eastern Question, and there is certainly no foreigner who understands as well as he the character and capabilities of the Greek race. We are certain that his eminent abilities will not fail Greece in the present juncture, when the territorial question is not yet solved. He is so well known throughout Europe, and counts among his friends so many influential persons in England, France and Germany, that his views cannot fail to have the most happy influence." The moment he was freed from official ties, General Read set to work with generous ardor to promote the interests of the struggling people who were then pleading their cause before Europe, bringing all the resources of his unrivaled acquaintance with Eastern affairs to bear in the highest quarters. He journeyed, at his own expense, from one important point to another, arguing and

urging the return to Greece of at least a portion of the ancient territories lying beyond her present borders. During his long sojourn in Greece he had won the confidence alike of the sovereign and of the people, and he was in a position to see that additional territory was essential to the existence of the Greeks as a nation. When the efforts of King George and his ministers were crowned with success the unselfish labors of General Read were not overlooked. The newly appointed Greek minister to London was directed, while passing through Paris, to convey to him the thanks of his government; and the King, who shortly afterwards visited that metropolis, called upon him to express His Majesty's personal thanks. In 1881, when the territories adjudged to Greece had been finally transferred, King George, in recognition of General Read's services since his resignation of the post of United States Minister, created him a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Redeemer,



GRAND CROSS OF THE REDEEMER.

the highest dignity in the gift of the Greek government, at the same time that His Majesty conferred a similar honor upon M. Waddington, Prime Minister of France, who had presented the Greek claims to the Berlin Congress, and upon Count Hatzfeldt, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Germany, who had successfully urged the same claims at Constantinople. For his many eminent services to his country during the War of Secession, General Read was named Honorary Companion of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion. The French government offered the commandership of the Legion of Honor to him, which he declined.

When the Historical Society of Delaware was organized in 1864, Chief Justice Read, of Pennsylvania, was the chairman of the delegation appointed by the Historical Society of Pennsylvania to be present; and on the same occasion his cousin, Mr. William Thompson Read, of New Castle, was chosen first vice-president, and General Meredith Read was invited to deliver the

first anniversary address before the Society, to which allusion has already been made. For this and many other services General Read was elected an honorary member of the Society. He was an honorary member and afterward a regular member of the revived Society of the Cincinnati of Delaware.

General Meredith Read married at Albany, New York, on the 7th of April, 1859, Delphine Marie, daughter of Harmon Pumpelly, Esq., an eminent citizen of Albany, whose father, John Pumpelly, born in 1727 (on the same day as the celebrated General Wolfe), served with distinction in the early Indian and French wars was present at the siege of Louisburg, was at the side of Wolfe when he fell, mortally wounded, on the heights of Abraham, in 1759, and assisted in closing that heroic commander's eyes. John Pumpelly was also an officer of merit during the war of the Revolution, and attained a great age, dying in his ninety-third year, in 1820. The Pumpelly family, like the Wadsworth family, removed in the latter part of the last century from Connecticut to Western New York, where they acquired large landed properties. Mr. Harmon Pumpelly, who was born in Salisbury, Connecticut, on the 5th of August, 1795, died at Albany on the 29th of September, 1882, in the eighty-eighth year of his age. His three elder brothers, James, Charles and William, like him reached an advanced age, and were distinguished also for their wealth, philanthropy and public spirit. Mr. Harmon Pumpelly was largely interested in all the most important institutions and enterprises of central and western New York, and his home was the seat of a refined and unremitting hospitality.

Mrs. Read, *née* Pumpelly, one of the most beautiful and attractive women of her day, was as popular at Athens as she was at Paris, and her *salon* in both capitals was a centre of American and European fashion and culture. Mrs. Read also gave proof of the highest attributes of womanhood, *viz.*, courage and humanity, in the most trying moments of the Franco-German war. During the horrors of the siege of the Commune she remained in Paris with her husband and calmly faced the terrible dangers of that time.

They had four children, Major Harmon Pumpelly Read, John Meredith Read, Jr., Miss Emily Meredith Read, now Mrs. Edwards Spencer, and Delphine Marie Meredith Read, now Countess Max de Foras. General John Meredith Read died December 27, 1896.

Harmon Pumpelly Read, eldest son of Gen. Meredith Read, and his wife, Delphine Marie Pumpelly, was born at Albany, New York, on the 13th day of July, 1860. Educated at Paris and Athens, at a military school, and at Trinity College, he became a member of the Historical Societies of Pennsylvania and New York, a fellow of the Royal Geographical Society of London, and a fellow of the Geographical Society of Paris. He has devoted much time to historical research; is an active and influential member of the Republican party; was a candidate for the Legislature in a strong Democratic district, where he greatly reduced the Democratic majority; and was elected President of the Young Men's Association of Albany—a position to which some of the most eminent men in the State of New York have aspired. He was Inspector of Rifle Practice, with the rank of Major, in the New York State National Guard. Major Read is an eminent Mason, and one of the most learned members of the craft in Masonic history, and



Mrs. JOHN MEREDITH READ.



has reached the thirty-second degree. He is captain-general of the Knights of the Golden Cord, Ancient French Rite. He is one of the authorities on Symbolism and Heraldry in the United States, and has written many notable articles for the newspapers of the country and many other publications. His



MAJOR HARMON PUMPELLY READ.

ancestor in the sixth degree was one of the founders of the first Lodge of Masons in America. His grandfather, Chief Justice Read of Pennsylvania, was Grand Master of Masons, as was his cousin, Hon. William Thompson Read of Delaware, while his father, General Meredith Read, received the highest degree in masonry from the Grand Council of Greece. He was Regent three years of Philip Livingston Chapter, Sons of the Revolution.

He was Acting Chairman of the Committee of Eminent Citizens appointed by the Mayor of Albany to receive the Duke of Veragua. He was also secretary of the committee of citizens appointed by the mayor to receive the Postal Congress. Captain and Governor-General of the Knights of Albion.



COLONEL JOHN MEREDITH READ (1869—), in costume representing George Read, the Signer, in Revolutionary Tableaux at Albany Bi-Centennial, 1886.

First National Guard officer to receive official recognition as such in France. Married Marguerite de Carron d'Allondans. (Arms of Carron d'Allondans azure 3 titles or, Crest out of a coronet an eagle displayed, bearing on its breast a tile.)

John Meredith Read, Jr., second son of General Meredith Read, and his wife Delphine Marie Pumpelly, born at Albany, New York, on the 27th of June, 1869, is a member of the Historical Societies of Pennsylvania and New York. During the Spanish War he raised a regiment of 2,700 men, 800 of whom were in the city of Albany. He married Countess Alix de Foras; he has one son, John Meredith Read.

Emily Meredith Read, eldest daughter of General Meredith Read, and his wife Delphine Marie Pumpelly, married at her father's residence, Newport, Rhode Island, on the 21st of August, 1884, Francis Aquila Stout, Esq., of New York, son of the late A. G. Stout, Esq., by his wife, Louise Morris, of Morrisania, a

granddaughter of the Hon. Lewis Morris, a signer of the Declaration of Independence, and grand-niece of Hon. Gouverneur Morris, one of the framers of the Constitution of the United States, and afterwards United States Minister to France. She married, secondly, Edwards Spencer, Esq., a descendant of Jonathan Edwards.

Marie Delphine Meredith Read, second daughter of General Meredith Read, and his wife Delphine Marie Pumpelly, was born in Paris, while her father was United States Consul-General to France, and was christened at the American Episcopal Church in the Rue Bayard, her godfather being Sir Bernard Burke; married Count Max de Foras, of the Castles of Marclaz and Thuyset; they have three children: Countess Huguette, Countess Delphine and Count Joseph. Arms of Foras are or a cross azure.

The arms of the Read family are gules a saltire, between four garbs or. Crest, on the stump of a tree vert a falcon rising belled and jessed or.

Motto — Cedant Arma Togae.

### GENERAL JOHN MEREDITH READ.

The illustration on the opposite page represents General John Meredith Read's book-plate, which gives his coat-of-arms as a Knight Grand Cross of the Order of the Redeemer. In connection with these arms, I think it will be of some interest to the readers of this work to give the appended letter to General Read from H. M. the King of Greece. General Read had asked His Majesty to give him an augmentation to his arms—if I remember rightly he wished supporters, which would symbolically hand down for all time a record of his distinguished services. It was unfortunate that His Majesty did not stretch a point, as he did, I believe, in the case of the title given to his eldest son, the Duke of Sparta; for it was a little, a very little, thing that General Read asked, and, after all, it was asked only because of his children. The letter, however, is most interesting and is one of a great many owned by the author and compiler. This letter, in my humble opinion, shows a charming character—there is such a delicacy of sentiment and such an evident desire to avoid offending an old and tried friend.

LETTER TO GENERAL READ FROM H. M. GEORGE I OF GREECE.

GENERAL MEREDITH READ,

128 Rue la Boétie,

Champs Elysees,

Paris.

ATHENS 19th Decbr 1893.

MY DEAR GENERAL—

Will you kindly accept my excuses for not having answered and thanked you yet for your very kind letter? You must have seen from the papers the course of political affairs here, and I am sure you will understand how difficult it was for me to find a quiet moment in the midst of all that trouble and anxiety. Of course you know that my thoughts as usual, are *very* often with you.

I have asked my wife to give me one of her new photos, which I shall send you next week, she hopes it will please Mrs. Read, and show you how much we always think of you. We are very sorry indeed to hear that Mrs. Read is continuing to suffer, but we sincerely hope she will recover soon.

Xmas and the new year being at hand, I beg you and Mrs. Read to accept our very best and most heartfelt good wishes, may every blessing attend

you and yours. The Almighty *alone* knows what this year will bring *us* here. I feel very sad and melancholy about the future. Though the measures taken by the government now are only provisoires, the situation is very uneasy and complicated. I have been thinking much about your desire concerning the addition to your coat of arms. The Greek Constitution does not acknowledge titles or coats of arms, therefore I do not know *if* I have a right to confer even an addition to existing coats of arms. As to the Greek grand cross, as well as all the minor decorations, it is exclusively a personal distinction and cannot, as well as its motto, be handed over to one's male or female heirs.

I feel quite sure, my dear General, that you will understand the reasons why I think that it perhaps would be difficult for me to fulfil this wish of yours, which it, of course, would have been a *real pleasure* for me to do at once. I wrote to you quite openly, as befits old and true friends, and I know you will not misunderstand me. With my best wishes for a Happy New Year, and thanking you once more from all my heart for your very kind letter, believe me, dear General ever your very sincere and affectionate

GEORGE I.

LETTER FROM QUEEN ALEXANDRA.

A recognition of the services of General Meredith Read to the Kingdom of Greece, and to the King of that country, is contained in a letter to General Read from the present Queen of England, sister of King George I. of Greece, which letter is now in possession of the compiler. The letter reads:

SANDBRINGHAM,  
NORFOLK,

January 6th, 1879.

DEAR GENERAL READ:

I cannot allow the New Year to begin without writing a few lines to thank you for all you have done, and for all the devotion you have shown my dear brother during the one that has just closed.

Believe me, I am deeply touched by it, and have considered that should any good befall my dear brother and his country it will be in a great measure owing to the efforts you have made in his behalf. I am certain he will never forget or cease to appreciate your untiring exertions, and will always regard you as one of his truest and most constant friends. God grant that this noble cause may at last be crowned with success.

With many thanks for your kind letters, and every good wish for a happy New Year for you and Mrs. Read, believe me, dear General Read,

Yours sincerely,

ALEXANDRA.



ARMS OF JOHN MEREDITH READ BRANCH.



## RECOLLECTIONS OF GENERAL MEREDITH READ.

GENERAL JOHN MEREDITH READ, during the latter years of his life, was engaged in the preparation of an autobiography, and though much had been written, it was unfinished at the time of his death. The appended extracts from General Read's unpublished narrative may be found of interest to the readers of this volume:

### AUTOBIOGRAPHIC.

I was born in my father's old mansion in Sixth street, Washington Square, Philadelphia, when that part of the city was a very fashionable locality. I first saw the light on the 21st of February, 1837, and a few hours later the bells and cannon were ushering in the birthday of Washington. In consequence of this there was always a joke in the family that I was a Colonial character, for I was born before the Father of Our Country. My coming was a source of great rejoicing, for the five children who preceded me were all girls, and were all dead in early infancy save one — my sister Emily, who was born on the 5th of January, 1829, and died in New York on the 20th of April, 1854. I was a child of good and generous impulses, which were fostered by my family surroundings.

In the old garden grew magnificent tulips, an inheritance from my great-grandmother, Mrs. George Read, and pinks both white and red; the myrtle crept along the wall, the modest violet peeped from beneath the box, the lily of the valley and the snowdrop nestled in the sunshine, and whenever I hold in my hand a bit of lemon verbena, the perfume brings before me the great shrubs which my mother planted and which stood at the entrance of the marble bridge which led into the garden.

The old mulberry tree in the corner was my favorite resort. On a high branch, among the luxuriant foliage, I had constructed a seat, to which I would climb with one of Scott's novels and a bag of sweet cakes, and, drawing up my rope ladder, remain for hours entranced in the creations of the great Scotchman.

Odors are strange things. The other day I found a magnolia blossom from lower Florida, and it brought before me immediately my dear Aunt Margaret, my father's sister, who spent some time in that country, but who has been dead thirty-four years.

In my childhood many odd customs and objects still remained which have since disappeared. The streets were filled with strange cries, and the chimney-sweep was a familiar sight. Each hour of the night was called, ending with "and all is well." In the neighborhood of Washington and Independence Squares — then surrounded by a high iron spear fence, whose points were gilded, and which was divided at regular intervals by iron posts

representing ancient Roman fasces — were scattered the round boxes of the city watchmen, who were to be found therein in all cold and stormy nights, wrapped in huge "watch coats," with capes and high collars. These boxes were large enough to shelter two or three persons, and a small iron stove, which served to warm the weary and chilly in the long winter nights; and it was the amusement of roystering youngsters to catch the city guardians napping and tip over their towers.

I forgot to mention the great English walnut tree which grew in an adjoining garden, threw its huge limbs over our premises, and in the autumn generously showered the ripe treasure on walk and lawn.

The house was a roomy mansion, filled with mysterious nooks and corners. It had three cellars — one below the other, and in the lowest were three wells, for what purpose no one ever knew. In the centre of the house was a winding staircase, which ran from the ground floor to the garret, and was lighted by a glass dome on which the rain pattered and the hail sometimes rattled like shot.

The high balustrade beneath the dome was the place of execution for the dolls, who were sometimes suspended for high treason. Their residence was in a large "baby house" which belonged to my sister, and which, with the movable doors and windows and furniture, was a constant source of delight. The garrets of this old home were filled with the remains of two centuries of family life, and many articles of antiquity, now worth their weight in gold, were carelessly thrust into these huge receptacles, which were my favorite resorts; for even at a tender age I took the strongest interest in whatever was ancient and illustrated a partially forgotten period.

There was some strange connection between the outer air and the lower cellar wells; for when I was a very little boy I dropped a tin sword through an aperture in the exterior basement wall of the house, and I heard it clanging down the sides and finally falling with a splash into the water. A thorough search did not reveal whither it had gone.

The great rooms and halls in the old house were filled with ancient books and pictures, and from the walls looked down the full-length portraits of many generations of departed ancestors.

As the logs on the spacious hearth threw out brilliant lights and dense shadows, the originals seemed stepping from the frames to mingle in the dreams of their youthful representative.

One experience is deeply imprinted upon my memory. I had gone to bed early in my vast, high, old-fashioned four-post bedstead, into which I climbed with the aid of several mahogany steps, and was suddenly awakened by terrific claps of thunder, and, as I sat up in bed, my little heart throbbing with fear, a flash of lightning played across the life-sized portrait of an ancestress dressed in a white satin court robe, and as the lightning vanished, by its expiring spark I saw through the long windows the white tombstones in the old unused cemetery far away on Fifth street. I shall never forget the sensation of that terrific moment — the being of one hundred and fifty years ago seemed to be aroused to life and beckoning me with its well-fashioned hand towards the abode of the departed. To this day I always look upon that picture with a shudder.

After many years' absence, and after my father's death, I came back and found the old house occupied by a community of nuns, and an altar stood on the very spot where I was born, in the great back room of the second story.

The family papers and correspondence furnished me with a complete insight into the changes and chances of political and fashionable life during two hundred years. In the mouldering pages I saw the rise of new families, and traced with emotion the extinction of many distinguished names. It is an interesting journey backwards into the centuries which are gone, and one makes acquaintance with all that is really worth knowing in the social history of the country. For society only began to settle down into comfortable existence at the close of the seventeenth century—and it was still very far from the luxuries of the nineteenth. It is true that there was more form and ceremony, and the unfortunate spirit of equality had not yet reached its present height.

As I grew in intellectual stature under the guidance of able tutors and the decided influence of my father, I felt my deficiencies and was inclined to say "I know nothing." Then, as I was told I was really making a progress which was worthy of my age and my opportunities, I plucked up courage and fell to work with renewed ardor.

My first inclination was for a military life. This idea met with the greatest opposition on the part of my father; but it was finally agreed that, if after trying a period of instruction at a preparatory military school, I still desired to enter West Point, not only would there be no opposition to it on the part of my father, but that he would at once procure me an appointment, his commanding influence making this a very easy matter. I accordingly pursued my studies at a celebrated military institution in the State of New York.

My plans, however, were entirely frustrated a year or two later by an accident which occurred during an absence at home, from an explosion of percussion powder, which shattered my right hand in the most dreadful manner and laid me for months upon a bed of excruciating and dangerous pain.

I shall never forget the morning that I stood in the old hall entirely alone, holding together with my left hand, which was also wounded, the shattered remains of the other, with the blood also streaming from my face and head. The servants, all possessed with a sudden fear, had rushed out of the house to seek for surgical or medical aid, and there I, a boy of only fourteen, was left alone to look death in the face, for there seemed no hope that anyone would come in season to save my life. The nephew of the housekeeper, a steady person, fortunately encountered a medical man in the street, and, explaining the circumstances, asked him to come at once to my assistance. To his indignation and astonishment, however, the doctor hesitated, saying that he did not wish to interfere with the family physician. "But," said Francis, "the young gentleman is bleeding to death," and seeing that he still declined to come in, he seized him by the collar and forced him into the house and stood over him until the first dressings had been made. The doctor then thought of severing the thumb and half of the hand which were but slightly connected with the wrist with a pair of

scissors; but I had sense enough to combat this idea, in which I was seconded by our old housekeeper Trainor. Thus the matter went on until the arrival of Drs. Keating and Norris, who cared for me with that skill for which they were so famous. They seemed to think that I behaved with great courage and fortitude, especially as I refused to take anodynes; and, looking back upon it now, it appears to me that for a youth of that age to bear such a calamity with a light heart, a gay laugh and a thought for others was not a bad thing.

This accident had a curious effect upon my constitution. Up to that time I had been short, round and muscular, with a fine ruddy complexion and every evidence of robust health. I issued from this illness, which at one time threatened to terminate my life by lockjaw, lean, lank and feeble, and for years I never knew what health was. My military taste, however, although this accident put an end to my receiving a regular military education at West Point, was not cooled; and while at Brown University, at the early age of eighteen, I became captain of a company in the regiment called the National Cadets, which afterwards furnished a large number of efficient officers to the Union army during the Rebellion. It was at this time that I made General Burnside's acquaintance, who was then at the head of the Rhode Island Militia, with the rank of major-general, and in after years succeeded General McClellan in command of the Army of the Potomac.

Colonel William Sprague, in those days, commanded the Marine Artillery. He had a slim, delicate, yet wiry, figure. His features were prominent, his dark eyes were full of fire, and his straight black hair and slight moustache and beard contrasted with his rich complexion, in which the blood mantled when he was aroused. His movements were quick and nervous, and he had a perfect command over his men.

When the war came on he was Governor of Rhode Island, and in consequence of his previous experience he was enabled to offer immediately a regiment and a battery of light horse artillery which he led to the field. He served with distinction during the peninsular campaign, having one or more horses shot under him, and was offered and declined the commission of brigadier-general. Shortly after he was chosen to the United States Senate, where he served for six years, and was then re-elected, serving six more, twelve in all, *i. e.*, from 1863 to 1875.

Two years after becoming a captain in the National Cadets I was appointed by Governor William Hoppin, of Rhode Island, one of his military aides, with the rank of colonel, and in this situation I made the personal acquaintance of all the leading military and public men in that State and in the surrounding States.

Governor Hoppin belonged to a family distinguished for its charming manners and its artistic, literary, political and social tastes. His father, Mr. Benjamin Hoppin, erected, in the early part of this century, on the north side of Westminster street in Providence, a stately brick mansion with graceful white pillars on the front, which ran from a spacious piazza up to the projecting roof, which it supported. Each of the windows of the two upper stories was ornamented by graceful wrought-iron balconies. This house seemed to be so out of proportion to the elder Mr. Hoppin's needs—

for at that time he was unmarried — that his neighbors called it "Hoppin's Folly." He soon, however, demonstrated his wisdom by taking unto himself a most agreeable wife and filling the spacious rooms with children. In this delightful home Governor Hoppin was born as long ago as 1807, and he died a year or two ago in a fine residence which he had erected upon the property adjoining his birthplace. He was a man of the most genial manners and with a keen sense of humor. He sat a horse with remarkable grace, and I can see him now with his son, Colonel Frederick Street Hoppin, by his side as we galloped forward towards the reviewing line. His town house and his country seat at Warwick Neck were the scene of much attractive and generous hospitality, presided over for many years by his agreeable wife — who was a sister of Mr. Augustus Russell Street, of New Haven, who founded the Street Professorship of Modern Languages in Yale College and the Titus Street Professorship in the theological department, and presented to Yale one of its most attractive buildings, the School of Fine Arts. Governor Hoppin's brother, the Rev. Dr. Mason Hoppin, is a clergyman and author of high distinction. Their uncle, Mr. Thomas Hoppin, resided on the upper part of Westminster street in a roomy mansion which has been commemorated by his accomplished son, the artist and author, Mr. Augustus Hoppin, in a volume entitled "Recollections of Auton House." The latter's brother, Mr. Thomas Frederick Hoppin, studied under Delaroché in Paris, and designed the four Evangelists which compose the great chancel window of Trinity Church in New York. He likewise modelled the figure of a dog, which is believed to have been the first piece of sculpture cast in bronze in the United States. He married a well-known heiress, Miss Jenkins, and resided in my youth on Benefit street, in a beautiful house whose outlines and interior decorations were due to his taste. Another brother, Mr. William Jones Hoppin, was one of the founders of the Century Club of New York, which resembles in its aims and composition the Athenaeum Club of London. He is widely and agreeably known in England, having been for ten years Secretary of Legation at the Court of St. James, and at various times acting as *Chargé d'Affaires*.

#### WARWICK NECK.

About 1850 my aunt, Mrs. Woods, bought a beautiful tract of land on the very summit of Warwick Neck, Rhode Island. Upon this she built a handsome residence with a tower, from whence the eye ranged along Narragansett Bay from Providence to Newport, a distance of thirty miles. Looking east we could just discern the dim outlines of Bristol, on the opposite shore; and, turning to the west, the ground rolled down to the waters of Greenwich Bay, behind whose skirting hills the sun sank to rest among the glories which light up declining day in that part of America.

This was the first northern country house which was fitted throughout in the interior with southern pine. Sitting on the broad piazzas we saw the vessels gliding by, and marked the more rapid course of the excursion steamers. The lawns, with their rare shrubs and many colored flowers, swept to a ridge, beyond whose outlines lay the vegetable gardens, enclosed upon the other side by a second ridge. Here grew sweet potatoes and many things usually only to be found in southern latitudes. Beyond, groves of

fine trees marched in intersecting lines to the bay, where a pier, pleasure boats and bathing houses held out many temptations.

It was delicious to bathe in the early morning beneath the widespreading foliage of "Horn Spring," as the eastern part of the property was called, or to push out under graceful sail, and sweeping through the waves, tempt the many fish with gaily tinted ribbons.

Opposite, in the wide waters, stretched the Islands Patience, Prudence, Hope and Despair. On the two former in the autumn there was good sport with dog and gun. Here was excellent plover shooting, and there were ducks in abundance, while woodchucks awaited our attacks in holes which seemed to penetrate to the center of the earth.

Prudence Island, by the way, was originally the property of Governor John Winthrop, chief executive of Massachusetts and the founder of Boston.

At the end of the Neck was a lighthouse, and a little way out we used to lie in our boats for hours fishing for shark and dog fish. There was a strong chain and iron hook, baited with pork, with which we landed many an ugly customer.

When I visited Warwick Castle in 1857 I carried away from Guy's Tower a root of ivy, which I planted at Warwick House—and it flourished and grew until it completely embowered the tower in which my apartments were; and there seemed a certain fitness in this; for Warwick, in Rhode Island, received its name from the Earl of Warwick two centuries and a half ago. After my aunt's death the house was accidentally burnt to the ground, and when I returned there a few years ago I found nothing but a heap of ruins, whose melancholy segments were almost entirely covered by the growth of the little spray of ivy which I had originally placed there.

On Warwick Neck many agreeable families finally built summer residences, including the Hoppins, the Halls and the Ives, and beyond Apponaug were the hospitable seats of the Goddards. Driving from Providence one came first to the village of Patuxet and next to the seat of the Francis family.

Warwick Neck was named by the Indians originally Shawomet, meaning a spring.

The township was sometimes also jokingly called "Greeneland," for it was the stronghold of that remarkable family, and every other man seemed to be named Greene.

Besides giving several Colonial Governors to Rhode Island, this family contributed to the Revolutionary cause Colonel Christopher Greene, the hero of Fort Mercer, and General Nathaniel Greene, who stood second only to Washington in military skill and force of character. I well remember Judge Albert C. Greene, the author of "The Baron's Last Banquet" and "Old Grimes;" also Mr. Albert G. Greene, Attorney-General of Rhode Island, and the venerable Chief Justice Greene, and Mr. Arnold Greene, of Providence, a distinguished lawyer and eminent scholar, who was my classmate and friend; and General George S. Greene, a graduate of West Point, who distinguished himself in the service of the government in the War of the Rebellion, served for many years as chief engineer of the Croton Aqueduct, and is still living, in his ninetieth year, in the full enjoyment of his remarkable physical and mental qualities.