

WILLIAM BRACKEN
OF
NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE,
AND
HIS DESCENDANTS,

Giving data bearing upon William Bracken,
his son Thomas Bracken,
and two generations of Thomas Bracken's descendants

BY
H. M. BRACKEN, M. D.,
MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.,
JULY, 1901

The University Press

NOTICE.

The author had hoped to have the historical sketch of Thomas Bracken (son of William Bracken) and his descendants through the sixth generation, compiled by this time, but various hindrances have prevented. It was deemed advisable, however, to publish the records of the early generations lest some unforeseen event might prevent their publication later, thus losing the time and expense that has already been given to the collection of data.

At the earliest possible date another number of this work will be issued, embracing later descendants of Thomas² Bracken.

Many facts relative to Henry² Bracken's descendants, and some facts relative to John² Bracken's descendants, are in the hands of the author. It would seem desirable to have all this published for the benefit of future generations. If there is sufficient interest shown in this work by the various Bracken descendants, the author is quite willing to give his time, as opportunity permits, to the compilation of such records.

H. M. BRACKEN, M. D.

Minneapolis, Minn., July 20th, 1901.

PREFACE.

This work was taken up out of a sense of filial duty. In the fall of 1871, Dr. William C. Bracken, father of the author, feeling that children should know more of their ancestors than was often the case in this country, began correspondence with a view to collecting data relative to the Bracken family, of which he was a member. Hardly had he started this work when sickness came upon him—the sickness that in the course of a few months was followed by death.

The author was at that time but a boy. Opportunity for taking up the work begun by the father did not present itself until 1896. Since then a vigorous effort has been made to collect all possible data, but much difficulty has been encountered in this task, partly through indifference on the part of some individuals to giving facts, and partly through imperfect records.

The order followed in this work will be as follows:

(1) An introduction, descriptive, so far as possible, of the first Bracken of the line in America.

(2) A part for each of his children with descendants.

H. M. BRACKEN, M. D.

Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 10th, 1899.

INTRODUCTION.

WILLIAM BRACKEN

OF

NEWCASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE.

— TO 1749.

I. *William¹ Bracken*, b—, d—.

His will was drawn April 8, 1749, and probated December 28, 1749.

m. *Hannah* ———.

CHILDREN.*

2. Thomas, m. Martha (Green.)
3. John, m.
4. Henry, m.
5. Hannah, m. James Jordan.
6. Margaret, m. Alexander Moore.
7. Martha, m. John Ball, Jr.
8. Susan, m. John Gillahan.

So far as is known, this William Bracken is the first of his line in America.

Where he came from is not positively known. Tradition says from England. Certain facts not only bear out this tradition, but point strongly to the probability that he came from Yorkshire.† The first records we have refer to his purchase of land in Delaware. Any attempt at an historical sketch must be very imperfect, for it can be made only from the records and public documents at Wilmington, and these are very incomplete. It would seem that he was fairly successful in accumulating property. The first record of land secured relates to one hundred acres. It states that William Bracken‡ of

*Names taken from his will.

†Francis Bracken, of Scarborough, Yorkshire, was one of the early settlers of West Jersey, having secured land Aug. 27th, 1683.

‡The spelling of this name is not at all uniform in the early records. It would appear that the nationality and learning of the scribe might be responsible to some extent for this fact. In the will the name is spelled *Brackon*. In the record of old Swedes Church (Wilmington) it is spelled *Bracken*, *Brackin*, *Brakin*, *Braken*, *Brachen* and *Brochon*, while some of the records add to this *Brakyn*. The oldest son, Thomas, and most of his descendants, spelled the name *Bracken*; so, too, did John and some at least of his descendants, while the descendants of the third son, Henry, after wavering for a time, finally settled down to *Brackin*. *Bracken* is the spelling for the name in Scotland, England, and to some extent in Ireland. *Brackin* is quite generally an Irish spelling of the name.

Newcastle county, Delaware, requested a grant of one hundred acres near John Evans near Red Clay Creek, for which he agreed to pay twelve pounds ten shillings per hundred acres, and a bushel of wheat rent per annum; to pay the twenty-fifth of December (25th Xbr.), 1703, with interest from the twenty-fifth of December (25th Xbr.), 1702.* From this application, it would appear that he was recognized as a resident of Delaware as early as July 14th, 1702.†

On the fourteenth of December (14th Xbr.), 1702, Joshua Morgan requested one hundred acres adjoining or near to the one hundred acres lately granted to William Brakyn on Mill Creek near White Clay Creek, on the same terms, etc.‡ On April 9th, 1720, William Brakin "desires" the grant of two hundred acres of land in Christiana hundred, New Castle County, Delaware, formerly held by Thomas Graves. This he secured May 8th, 1721.§

December 14 (14th Xbr), 1727, William Brakin requested the grant of a parcel of land at Fishing Creek near Susquehannah, and desired a warrant (war^t) as soon as possible.|| Concerning this grant a James Robinson entered the following protest:

"That about seven years since, he made some beginning on a Tract of Land lying on the West side of Fishing Creek, in Lancaster county, (Penna.), but soon after William Brackin procured a survey to be made by Elisha Gatchell, which included the above improvement, under pretense of settling his Children, but instead therefore he has without regular warrant (Warr^t) sold two quantities for about ninety pounds, besides which (what) he has given to his son-in-law and daughters,

*Application made at a meeting of the Commissioners of Property July 14th, 1702. See Penna. Archives 2nd Series, Vol. 19, p. 324.

†Mill Creek Hundred, where William Bracken settled, is in the north-western part of New Castle County, and is bounded on the north and west by the "Circle;" on the east by Red Clay Creek, and on the south by White Clay Creek.

‡Penna. Archives, 2nd Series, Vol. 19, p. 342.

§Records at Wilmington, Book Q deeds, p. 237. See also Penna. Archives, 2nd Series, Vol. 19, p. 704.

||Penna. Archives, 2nd Series, Vol. 19, p. 754.

and that part still left unsold by William Brackin, J. Robinson desires the Grant of about two hundred acres, for which he is ready to pay. (4th 12 mo. 1735.)*

It would seem as though William Bracken settled his children fairly well. In 1726-27 he gave two hundred acres to his son Thomas, and one hundred and fifty acres to his son John. Other children were provided for, judging from the complaint above of James Robinson. The records speak of William Bracken as a yeoman. It is uncertain whether he was married in England or in this country. Tradition says he was married and had three children (boys), when he first came from England, but tradition is not always correct. His oldest son, Thomas, died in 1780. The first daughter mentioned in his will—Hannah—was married in Delaware, Feb. 2, 1722.† He himself died in 1749 (Dec. ?). These dates would point to the probability of his having been a comparatively young man in 1702, when he secured his first land in Delaware.

*Penna. Archives, 3d Series, Vol. 1, pp. 67, 69.

†Records of Old Swedes Church, Wilmington. This church, now known as Holy Trinity, is a quaint old building that was consecrated in 1699. In its records appear the following Bracken names:

MARRIAGES.

Feb. 2, 1722—James Jordan and Hannah Brackin.
 Feb. 22, 1751—William Bracken and Sarah Garrit (L).
 Sept. 19, 1751—John Brackin and Catherine Adams (L).
 Nov. 5, 1755—William Bracken and Ruth Gregg (L).
 Jan. 31, 1757—Thomas Brakin and Martha Machan.
 July 30, 1760—Joseph Ball and Hannah Brackin (daughter of Henry (L)).
 Aug. 31, 1769—Isaac Brakin and Rachel Stalkop.
 Oct. 20, 1774—John Reed and Agnes Brakin (L).
 Sept. 14, 1799—(b) Henry Bracken and Susannah Davis.
 [NOTE—"L" means Licensed.]

BIRTHS.

Children of Henry and Susannah Brochon:
 Isaac, born March 23, 1751.
 Susannah, born Feb. 1st, 1755, baptized April 12, 1756.
Children of William and Ruth (Bracken):
 Martha, born March 2, baptized Sept. 11, 1757.
Children of James and Rose McLaughlin Brochon:
 Jane, born July 16, 1751, baptized Aug. 25, 1751.
Children of Henry and ——— Bracken:
 Moses, born July 14, 1760, baptized at St. James, Feb. 25, 1761.
 (Stanton, Del.)

It is probable that he and his family belonged to the Church of England (Episcopal), for all his descendants were in the Episcopal church through one generation and some even to the present time. His will reads as follows:

"In the name of God, Amen—the eighth day of April in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and forty-nine, I William Bracken, of Millcreek hundred In the County of New Castle on dellaware yeoman being in perfect health mind and memory thanks be given to God, therefore calling unto mind the Mortality of my Body and Knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die do make and ordain this my last will and Testament, that is to say principally and first of all I give and recommend my Soul Into the hands of God that gave it and for my Body I recommend it to the Earth to be buried in a Christian like and decent manner at the discretion of my Executors nothing doubting but that at the general Resurrection I shall receive the same again by the mighty power of God, and as touching such worldly Estate wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life I give bequeath and dispose of the same in the following form—Item. I do leave unto my Son Thomas Brackon one shilling sterling Curr^t money which shall be in full of his portion and share of my real and personal Estate Item. I do leave unto my Son John Brackon one shilling Sterling Curr^t money which shall be in full of his portion and share of my real and personal estate. Item. I do leave unto my Son Henry Brackon one shilling Sterling Curr^t money which shall be in full of his portion and share of my real and personal Estate. Item. I do leave to my Daughter Hannah wife of James Jordan one shilling Sterling Curr^t money and I do leave to s^d James Jordan one shilling Sterling Curr^t which shall be in full of his portion and share of my real and personal Estate. Item. I do leave to my Daughter Margaret wife to Alexander Moore one shilling Sterling curr^t money and I do leave unto the said Alexander Moore one shilling Sterling Curr^t money which shall be in full of their portion and share of my real and personal Estate. Item. I do leave unto my daughter Martha Ball widow of John Ball junior deceased

one shilling Sterling current money which shall be in full of her portion and share of my real and personal Estate. Item. I do leave unto John Gillehan who was married to my daughter Susannah deceased one shilling Sterling Curr^t money which shall be in full of his portion and share of my real and personal Estate. Item. I do leave unto my Grandson William Gillehan son of the s^d John Gillehan thirty pounds Curr^t money of Pennsylvania to be put out at interest for him by my Executors untill he arrives to s^d age of twenty-one years and then to pay him the Principal and Interest. Item. I do give unto my grand Daughter Elizabeth Gillehan Daughter of the s^d John Gillehan the house and shop where John Lapsley lately lived it being on the main Road leading to the White Clay Creek landing and four acres of Land joyning to it and all the appurtenances thereunto belonging to her and to her heirs forever and fire wood sufficient and convenient for twenty-one years shee or her heirs cutting or hauling the same But if it should happen that she shou'd depart this life without lawfull Issue then it is my will and I do give and Bequeath the above s^d house and shop and four Acres of Land and priviledges afores^d to my Grandson William Gillehan and his heirs forever.*

Item. I do leave unto my Grand Daughter Martha Jordan daughter of my s^d Daughter Hannah Jordan ten pounds Curr^t money of Pennsylvania to be put out to interest for her in good hands and paid her at s^d age of Eighteen years or day of marriage by my s^d Executors both principal and Interest.

Item. It is my Will and I do give and Bequeath unto my Grandson William Brackon Son of my s^d Son Henry Brackon all of my real and personal Estate he paying all of my just debts and funeral charges and Legacies left by me to the within and above mentioned persons to him and his heirs forever. But if it should happen that my s^d Grandson should be taken away by death without lawfull Issue then it is my Will and I do give the s^d Real and Personal Estate to my s^d son Henry Brackon

*Wilmington—Book Deeds U, 545—Elizabeth married a William Brackin of Mill Creek—Cooper. They sold this property Feb. 12, 1763, to Zebulon Cantrell.

to him and his heirs forever And it is my will that all the legacies left by me be put to interest in good hands within six months after my Decease and paid as above and within s^d— And Lastly I do constitute make and ordain my s^d loveing Son Henry Brackon and my s^d loveing Grandson William Brackon son of my s^d son Henry Brackon my Sole Executors of this my Last Will and Testament. And I do hereby utterly disallow Revoke and disanul all and every other former Testaments Wills and Legacies Bequests and Executors by me in any way before this time named Willed and Bequeathed Ratifying and Confirming this and no other to be my last Will and Testament In Witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and Seale the day and year above written

his
WILLIAM BRACKON (Seal)
mark

Signed Sealed Published
Pronounced and declared by the s^d
William Brackon as his last will
and testament in the presence of us
the subscribers—

Simon Hadley

Evan Rice

Nebadiah Olney

Wilmington Del. Records

Wills Book G. p. 459.

PART ONE.

THOMAS BRACKEN,

oldest son of

WILLIAM BRACKEN,

AND

HANNAH _____

OF

NEW CASTLE COUNTY, DELAWARE,

AND HIS DESCENDANTS.

Second Generation.

II. *Thomas² Bracken*, (William,¹ page 7.)

Born—— in England—married in Delaware to Martha (Green?), died probably in 1780.

CHILDREN. *

9. William, m. 1756 to Ruth Gregg.
10. John, m. 1759 (?) to Elizabeth.
11. Thomas, m. 1764 (?) to —— Kilmary. (?)
1777 to Ann Shannon.
12. James, m. —— to Mary D——.
13. Hannah, m. to Nicholas Bishop.
14. Mary, m. to James Guttony.
15. Martha, m. to Archibald McGrew.
16. Margaret, m. to William McGrew.
17. Jean, m. to Mathew Dill.

Thomas Bracken was probably brought to this country when a child, as his father was certainly in Delaware in 1702. He was the oldest son of William.¹

On Feb. 23, 1726 or 27, he was deeded two hundred acres of land by his father on condition that he would make no further claim upon his father's estate. (Wilmington, Del., Deeds Book H, p. 249.)

He was also sold two hundred acres of land by his father on the North side of White Clay Creek, Nov. 17, 1749 (shortly before his father's death), for love and good will and twenty pounds (Book Q Deeds, p. 237). In consequence of the above agreement, he was left but one shilling in his father's will (see page 10). His early home was in New Castle County, Delaware, but some time previous to 1759 he moved to Pennsylvania, for on Sept. 10, 1759, John Bohonin of Mill Creek hundred, sold to Thomas Brackin of Huntington Township, York (now Adams) County, Pennsylvania, one (?) acre of land in Mill Creek hundred, for ten pounds (Wilmington, Book U Deeds, page 527).

*Children's names taken from the will of Thomas Bracken.

He was one of the vestrymen of Christ Church, Huntington Township, York County, Penna., in 1760 and 1761.* In 1761 he was assessed two pounds for work upon the Glebe house, belonging to Christ Church. He left thirty pounds to the poor fund of Christ Church in his will (see page 18).

The early settlers of York County, Penn., were from England and this probably had some influence upon Thomas Bracken, when he chose his new home away from the Delaware settlement. He and his family were undoubtedly members of the Episcopal Church, as shown by their relationship to Christ Church.

June 19th, 1769, Thomas Bracken sold to Philip Zeigler one hundred and fifty acres of land for three hundred and fifty

*A brief history of Christ Church is given in the 18th annual report of the "Protestant Episcopal Society for the Advancement of Christianity in Pennsylvania," p. 15. English Church people settled around this spot, Huntington Township, about 1740. There was a church here in 1753 and earlier. The first missionary was Rev. Thomas Barton, sent from England in 1755. He was tutor in the Academy (now University of Pennsylvania). Connected with the church property was one hundred and sixty acres of land. Contributions were made in May, 1761, for the purpose of building a stack of chimneys, digging a well and finishing the Glebe house. Among those assessed for this work was Thomas Bracken, Archibald McGrew and William McGrew (sons-in-law of Thomas Bracken) and John Bracken (son of Thomas). In 1770 there was in the hands of the wardens a fund for the poor of the church, amounting to one hundred and two pounds nine shillings. Rev. John Andrews, Rector. (He was afterwards provost of the University of Pennsylvania.) Rev. Daniel Batwell, rector from 1774 to 1776, was from England. He was "ducked" by the people of York for being a Tory; was abused by his own church people, and finally arrested and thrown into prison at York. Later he was released and allowed to return to England where he died. He was an accomplished scholar and a good man. The church later built a small brick chapel at Petersburg, which was known as Christ Church Chapel. It was about four miles from the mother church. It grew and the mother church dwindled. The Glebe property was reduced by one means or another. In 1885, by act of legislature, the remaining part was sold and the funds realized (\$1,600) were placed in the hands of the society. In 1897 the funds had increased to four thousand two hundred dollars. The income from this now helps to support the rector who lives at Gettysburg, and who preaches at regular intervals in a school house near the site of the old church. Of the old church property there is still left four acres, upon which is the old graveyard and the foundations of the old church, "the *finis* of a once prosperous parish." The oldest engraved stone bears the date of 1748. The records of Christ Church were very imperfectly kept; otherwise they might have contained much of historical interest.

pounds. Zeigler had been living upon this same property as a tenant before he bought it. (Gettysburg Book N. N. Deeds, p. 114.)

His wife Martha was probably a daughter of Edward Green, for he (Edward Green) in his will drawn about 1735, mentions his daughter Martha Bracken.* She was living at the time her husband's will was drawn, but there is no further record of her. It is stated that Washington was friendly with this Bracken family and that he passed some time at their home. This is quite possible, although there is nothing but tradition to bear out the statements. Of the four sons during Revolutionary times, William the oldest was probably in Westmoreland (Indiana) County. He has no war record so far as known. Thomas was a widower with four children on his hands at the outset of the war and has no war record. John died probably in 1777. James is said to have been an officer in the early part of the war, but he died in September, 1778. He has a traditional, but no official, war record.

Thomas Bracken's will, which was drawn April 6, 1779, and probated November 14th, 1780, gives some idea of the man and his standing. It reads as follows:

"I, Thomas Bracken of Monahan Township, County of York and State of Pennsylvania Yeoman do make this my last Will and Testament in manner following. Imp. I give bequeath and devise unto my beloved wife Martha one horse one cow one Feather Bed and Bed Cloths one spinning wheel and all my sheep together with her maintenance out of the rent of my place. Item. I give and bequeath unto my son William or his heirs Thirty Pounds to be paid after the sale of my Real Estate. I give and bequeath unto the Heirs of my son John deceased the sum of Thirty Pounds to be paid them after the sale of my Real Estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas or his heirs Thirty Pounds to be paid after the sale of my Real Estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto the heirs

*Edward Green, Jr., applied for one hundred acres of land next to William Bracken, April 2, 1722. This was probably a brother of Martha Green Bracken.

of my son James Bracken deceased the sum of Thirty Pounds to be paid them after the sale of my Real Estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Hannah or her heirs, wife of Nicholas Bishop the sum of Twenty pounds to be paid after the sale of my Real Estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary or her heirs, wife of James Guttory the sum of Twenty Pounds to be paid after the sale of my Real Estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Martha or her Heirs wife of Archibald McGrew Thirty Pounds to be paid her or them after the sale of my Real Estate. I give and bequeath unto the heirs of my daughter Margaret deceased late wife of William McGrew the sum of Twenty pounds to be paid after the sale of my Real Estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Jean wife of Mathew Dill the sum of Twenty pounds to be paid after the sale of my Real Estate. Item. I give devise and bequeath in trust unto John Collins and William Godfrey Church Wardens for the time being and their successors forever the sum of Thirty pounds lawful money which shall be put to Interest and the money arising from s^d sum shall be laid out for the use of the poor of Christ Church in Huntington Township and County of York at the discretion of the Vestry of s^d church for the time being and their successors forever to be paid to them after the sale of my Real Estate. My will is that my Real Estate be rented and the money be applied for the maintenance of my wife during her life or as much of it as my executors shall think fit to apply to that use and the remainder if any to be equally divided with the rest of my estate. I order my Real Estate to be sold as soon as conveniently may be after the decease of my wife at the discretion of my executors and the money arising from the sale of my whole Real Estate and Personal after paying my lawful debts Funeral Expenses and the Expense attending the execution of these presents then be applied to pay the above legacies and if any money remains I order it to be equally divided among my children or their heirs. I empower my executors to sell and make as good a title to the Purchaser as I could do. And I constitute and appoint my Trusty and well beloved son-

in-law Archibald McGrew and son William Bracken executors of this my last Will and Testament revoking all other wills by me heretofore made declaring this to be my last Will and Testament In Testimony whereof I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal this sixth day of Aprile in the year of our Lord one Thousand seven Hundred and seventy nine 1779—

Signed sealed Published and declared by the said Testator as and for his last will and Testament in presence of us.

his

THOMAS BRACKEN."

mark

John McGrew
William Beals
Martha Carson

York Pa. Records Wills Book E p. 130.

Orphans Court, York County, Pa.
Book E., p. 250.

"March 23, 1785.

Came into court Archibald McGrew and William Bracken, executors of the last will of Thomas Bracken deceased, and produced an account of their administration of the Estate with the Register, by which it appears that there is a balance of said deceased estate in their hands amounting to one hundred and eleven pounds to be disposed of agreeably to the discretion of the deceased's will. Examined and confirmed."

"March 24th, 1795.

Came into court Archibald McGrew surviving executor of the last will and Testament of Thomas Bracken of Monaghan Township and produced an account showing a balance of seven hundred and twenty-seven pounds, thirteen shillings and ten pence. Confirmed."

IX. *William³ Bracken* (Thomas,² page 15) (*William¹*, page 7).

Was born probably in Delaware—married in Delaware Nov. 5, 1755, to Ruth Gregg*—died some time prior to 1794.

CHILDREN.

18. Martha, b. 11-20-1757; baptized IX-11-1757.

19. Thomas, b—, m. Margaret Wakefield.

20. William, b—, m. Mary Garrison.

William Bracken was probably the oldest child of Thomas Bracken and Martha (Green?) as his name is the first to appear in his father's will (see page 17). Undoubtedly he lived for a time in York County, Penna., with or near his father. He was one of the early settlers of Westmoreland (that part now Indiana) County, Penna., for on the first page of the first book (A), in the Recorder's office for Westmoreland County, dated Feb. 6, 1773, is a document from George the Third naming William Bracken, among others, as a justice of the peace. This is witnessed and signed by Richard Penn as the representative of Thomas and John Penn, and Lieutenant Governor of the Province.

In "Historical Collections of Pennsylvania," by Sherman Day, page 377, it is stated that "about the year 1773, William Bracken built a mill near where William Clarke, Esq., lately resided on Blacklick, which was a great convenience to the settlers. They marked out a path which they traveled to Bracken's mill. I see one of the settlers before me now; his bridle is of hickory bark and he rides a pack saddle."

The first deed on record in Westmoreland County to William Bracken, is dated May 21st, 1773,† from Mathew Fowler, for three hundred and nine acres of land situated on Blacklick Creek.

*See Old Swedes Church Record given on page 9

†Westmoreland County was separated from Bedford County, Feb. 25, 1773.

The records show a deed from William Bracken, Esq., to C. Shokey, for three hundred acres of land, for the consideration of two hundred and thirty pounds, dated June 15, 1773.

Another deed from William Bracken, Esq., of Fairchild Township, Westmoreland County, to William McCain for three hundred acres of land, is dated March 8, 1774. It would appear that William Bracken was not fixed in his residence in Westmoreland County until some years later, for an article of agreement, dated Oct. 1, 1784 (Gettysburg Records Deeds, Book I, p. 443) refers to him as of York County, Pa. This was connected with a transfer of two tracts of land to Levi Garrison * of Cumberland County, New Jersey, one being on the path leading from George Findley's to William Bracken's mill; the other being in Bush Valley adjoining lands of Mathew Dill † and Levi Garrison, for which he was to pay two hundred pounds gold or silver. A deed conveying these two tracts of land to Levi Garrison, was given by William Clark, Administrator of William Bracken, deceased, Oct. 13, 1795. He was named as one of the executors in his father's will (see page 19), drawn Apr. 6, 1779, and appeared in Court March 23, 1785, with Archibald McGrew, his brother-in-law, to render an account of the estate of his father, showing one hundred and eleven pounds on hand (Orphans Court, York, Pa., Book E. p. 251.)

He probably died in Westmoreland (Indiana) County, Penna., in 1793 or 1794, and without having left a will, for on March 1st, 1794, William Bracken, Jr. (his son), gave a quitclaim deed to the other heirs of William Bracken, Sr. (Greensburg, Pa., Records Deeds, Book 2, p. 410). It would seem from the few recorded facts that this William Bracken was a man of some standing and prominence among the early settlers of Indiana County, Penna. While he was undoubtedly of the Church of England, nearly all of his descendants are or have been connected with the Methodist Church. The change may

*William Bracken, son of this William Bracken, married a daughter of Elijah Garrison.

†Mathew Dill was probably brother-in-law of William Bracken. See page 15.

have been made during his lifetime or it may have come through the children. Ruth Gregg, wife of William Bracken, was the daughter of Richard Gregg and Anne Hadley of Christian Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. The Gregg line was as follows:

- I. William Gregg.
- II. George Gregg and Sarah Hogg.
- III. Richard Gregg and Anne Hadley.

The first Gregg (William) settled on four hundred acres of land, surveyed to him March 11th, 1685. He died "ye 1st day of the 7th month and was buried on his own plantation 1687.

Richard Gregg, born ———, married at New Garden Meeting, April 12, 1735, and died ———, 1754. (Will dated Sep. 17, 1754.)

Annie Hadley was born Dec. 7, 1717. She was the daughter of Simon and Ruth Hadley, who came from Ireland and were among the early settlers of Mill Creek Hundred, New Castle County, Delaware. She died Dec. 18, 1750-51.

At the Newark (Delaware) monthly meeting, Nov. 5th, 1756, the Newark preparative complained of Ruth Gregg for marriage by a priest (Episcopal ?), to one not in unity with friends. On Jan. 1st (?) 1757, Testimony was signed against Ruth Bracken, to be read at Centre meeting.

On April 21, 1756, Ruth Bracken was baptized at St. James Episcopal Church (Stanton, Del.). Many of the Brackens were interested in the building of this church.

It is not known when Ruth Gregg Bracken died, but certainly not until after May 17, 1799, for at that time she signed a quitclaim deed to the heirs of William Bracken her husband, which read as follows:

Greensburg Deeds.

"*KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS*, That I, Ruth Bracken, widow of William Bracken, deceased, have remised, released and forever quitclaimed unto all and every of the heirs of my late husband William Bracken, deceased, their

heirs, executors, and administrators all and every action and manner of action and actions, Suits, Bonds, Bills and Writings of in or to or concerning my dower sum and sums of money judgments executions, extants, quarrels and controversies trespasses damages and demands whatsoever both in law and in equity or otherwise howsoever which against them the said heirs I ever had claim challenge or demand for or by reason or means of any act matter cause or thing from the beginning of the world to the day of the date of these presents. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this the 29th day of May 1799.

RUTH BRACKEN.

WITNESSES :

Robert Rodgers and
Archibald Jamison."

She was mentioned in the will of her son William, drawn Mar. 1st, 1794 (see page 47).

It is unfortunate that more facts cannot be obtained regarding this man and wife. Theirs must have been largely a frontier life and frontier life in Westmorland County from 1773 on, must have had some excitement connected with it.*

*It is probable that the first attempt toward settling within the limits of Indiana County was made in 1769, in the forks of the Cone-maugh and Blacklick. The County had been explored in 1766-67, and the explorers were much pleased with the spot on which Indiana now stands. Sherman Day's History, page 376.

- X. *John³ Bracken* (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).
 John Bracken, born in ———, Delaware (?), married to Elizabeth ———, died ———, 1777.

CHILDREN.*

21. Thomas, b. VII-30-1764; m. XII-18-1787, Sarah Twinem.
22. Martha, b. ———; m. ——— Black.
23. Catherine, b. ———; m. ——— Williams.
24. Elizabeth, b. ———; m. ——— Williams.
25. Margaret, b. 1772; m. ——— Williams.
26. John, b. 1775; (unmarried).
27. Mary, b. 1777; m. ——— McEntire.

John Bracken, yeoman, lived in Huntington Township, York County, Penna. His wife's name was Elizabeth ———, and she acted as his Executrix (see page 26).

The family were undoubtedly Episcopalians. The name John Bracken appears among those assessed for the building of the Glebe house of Christ Church (see page 16).

He was dead when his father's will was drawn April 6, 1779. He must have been a comparatively young man when he died, for his children were all under age probably when his will was drawn. His own will was drawn May 15th, 1777. The legacy for his son Thomas was to be paid him when he should reach the age of 21 years. March 24, 1785, Thomas Bracken asked that a guardian should be appointed for the three minor orphan children of his father. This would suggest the time for the son Thomas coming of age, and agrees with other records as bearing upon this point.

The following incident was handed down through the family: Elizabeth Bracken—the widow of John—was caring for her husband's farm during the Revolution; the soldiers seized her horses; she appealed to General Washington and the horses

*Names taken from will.

were returned. Tradition says that Washington was friendly with the Bracken family (see also page 33).

The will of John Bracken, drawn May 15, 1777, and probated March 20th, 1782, is as follows:

"I, John Bracken, of the Township of Huntington, County of York, in the Province of Pennsylvania, Yeoman, do make this my last will and testament in manner following:

Imprimis, I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Elizabeth my best bed and furniture belonging thereto, her spinning-wheel, my best mear her saddle and bridle. I order my waggon and sawmill irons to be sold and my grist mill to be rented together with what money is Indue me and the Boards at Stokdens sawmill and what wheat and flour I have together with what wheat can be spared from my family of the crop in the grown to pay my debts. The remainder of my personal estate I leave to my wife and children equally for their use. Also my plantation for the maintenance of my wife and children and schooling for my children for the space of four years and at the end of that time if my executors shall judge it most benefit for my whole family to sell my real estate, well, if not, to keep it until my son Thomas comes to the age of twenty-one then to sell my real estate and make the purchaser a good conveyance as I could do. The profits arising from my will after my debts is paid untill it is sold to be divided between my wife and children according to the shares left to each of them, the money arising from the sale of my real estate to be divided in manner following: Item. I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Elizabeth out of my Real Estate the sum of one hundred pounds in two years after seal is made in full of her dower of my Real Estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my son Thomas two hundred pounds of the first monies arising from the sale of my real estate in full of his shear of my whole estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Martha the sum of seventy pounds to be paid next to Thomas in full of her shear of my whole estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Elizabeth seventy pounds in full of her shear of my whole estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Catha-

rine seventy pounds in full of her shear of my whole estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Margaret seventy pounds in full of her shear of my whole estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my son John one hundred and fifty pounds in full of his shear of my whole estate. Item. I give and bequeath unto my daughter Mary seventy pounds in full of her shear of my whole estate. My will is that none of the above sums be paid to any of my children until they arrive at the age of twenty-one years and if any of my sons should die before they arrive at age or without lawful issue in that case his shear shall fall to his Brother and if any of my daughters should dey in manner aforesaid her shear shall be equally divided among her sisters and if my estate should not hold out to pay above legeseyes in that case it is to be taken off each of my Legatees according to the soms left to them and if it should amount to more to be given to each of them according to the soms left to them. And I constitute and appoint my beloved wife, my brother James Bracken and Archibald McGrew executors of this my last will and Testament revoking all other wills by me heretofore made declaring this to be my last will and testament. In testimony I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 15th day of May in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy-seven.

Signed, sealed and delivered by the said testator as and for his last will and testament.

JOHN BRACKEN.

In the presence of us
James McGagart, Jr.
William Squibb.
Martha McGrew."

Orphans Court, York Co., Pa.
Book E, page 251.

March 24th, 1785.

Thomas Bracken (son of John³) came into court and prayed that a guardian be appointed to take care of the persons and estates of three of the minor orphan children (Margaret,

John & Mary) of John Bracken, late of Huntington Township, deceased, whereupon the court appointed Mathew Dill (their uncle), of Monahan Township, York County, Pa., to be the guardian."

Archibald McGrew refused to serve as executor. James Bracken, another executor named in this will, died 1778.

Orphans Court, York Co., Pa.
Book F., p. 149.

"April 4, 1789.

Came into court Elizabeth Bracken, one of the surviving and only acting executor of the last will and testament of John Bracken, deceased, and produced an account showing a balance of seven hundred and fifty-two pounds, fifteen shillings and three pence, subject to distribution according to testator's will. Bill examined and approved by the Court."

XI. *Thomas³ Bracken* (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born ——— in Delaware, married (1) ——— to Kilmary, (2) ——— 1777, to Ann Shannon, of Lancaster County, Penna., died near Canonsburg, Penna., February, 1803.

CHILDREN.

First wife:

28. Martha, b. v-10-1765; m. ———, Samuel Shannon, d. 11-23-1838.
29. William, b. about 1763; m. (1) Jean Thompson.
(2) Sarah King.
30. Ann, b. ———; m. David Andrews.
31. Samuel, b. ———; not married.

Second wife:

32. Reid, b. ix-24-1778; m. v-1-1806, Mary Graham.
33. Thomas, b. 11-12-1780; m. (1) Elizabeth Morrow.
(2) Ann Davidson.
34. Sarah, b. 11-21-1782; m. John Thompson (1811).
35. Agnes, b. xi-24-1783; m. Rev. John Mathews.
36. Hannah, b. x-20-1785; m. 111-28-1809, Joseph Thompson.
37. John, b. viii-17-1787; m. Sarah Howe.
38. Jean, b. v-1-1790; m. ——— Richard Miller.
39. Mary, b. x-23-1792; m. 11——1819, William Van Eman.
40. Henry, b. vi-29-1794; m. vi-10-1816, Martha Davis Simcox.
41. Moses, b. ix-25-1796; died when a boy.
42. James, b. vi-31-1799; died young.

There are no records of this man prior to 1777, further than that he had married ——— Kilmary, and that she had died leaving at least four children. He was probably born in Delaware, and lived with or near his father in York (Adams)

County, Penna. In 1777 he married his second wife—Ann Shannon, of Lancaster County, Penna., and in November, 1778, he removed from York (Adams) County to Washington (then a part of Westmoreland) County, Penna. With him were the four children by his first wife, his second wife Ann, and her first born, Reid, then about six weeks old. He did not go among strangers, for sisters, and probably other members of his wife's family were already living in Washington County. Many of the early settlers of this county were from Chester, Lancaster and York Counties.

He took up two tracts of land—one called "three shares situated upon Chartiers Creek near Canonsburg; the other known as Logan Water, situated on Raccoon Creek.*

Part of the Chartiers property now belongs to the state, in connection with the Reform school at Morgantown.

Rev. John McMillan, a noted Presbyterian divine of Western Pennsylvania, began preaching to the Chartiers people in 1776.

The Chartiers Presbyterian Church was organized and Thomas Bracken was one of its early ruling members. Rev. John McMillan started a Latin school about 1779, one year after moving his family to his congregation. Later Canonsburg Academy was started. Dr. McMillan's school was merged into the Canonsburg Academy in 1791. It continued to prosper until it was regularly organized into Jefferson College in 1820—the first college west of the Allegheny mountains. Thomas Bracken was one of the trustees of Canons-

*Washington, Pa., Old Survey Book 3, page 95. A draft of a survey called "Logan water", situated on Raccoon Creek, in Washington County, Penna., containing 157 acres and 42 perches and the usual allowance for roads, etc., executed Sept. 28, 1786, in pursuance of a warrant granted Thomas Bracken for 100 acres, dated Sept. 16, 1785; and on page 101, same survey book; a draft of a tract of land lying upon the waters of Chartiers Creek, Washington County, Penna., called the "Three Shares," containing 340 acres strict measure, surveyed April 15, 1788, in pursuance of a certificate granted to Thomas Bracken by the Commissioners of Virginia, appointed to adjust claims to unpatented lands, in the counties of Yohogania, Monongahelia and Ohio. A Virginia certificate was granted for this tract in 1780. A patent was not obtained until March 30, 1802.

burg Academy,* and was probably active in the organization of the college (Jefferson College) which grew out of it, and received its charter shortly before the time of his death.†

Thomas Bracken is described as tall, well proportioned and fine looking. His family was "one of the most respected of western Pennsylvania." He died February, 1803, and was buried upon his own farm, on a part that afterwards passed to his son Thomas. It is stated that later his remains were removed to the Hill Church burying ground, but no stone marks his resting place, if this is true.

His children were well provided for—some had been given property before his death. His will, drawn Feb. 8, 1803, and registered March 22, 1803, reads as follows:

"In the name of God Amen. I, Thomas Bracken, of Cecil Township, Washington County, and State of Pennsylvania, being in a low state of health but in sound mind and memory and in the full exercise of my mind, do this 8th day of Feb. 1803 publish this my last will and testament in manner following that is to say I give and bequeath unto my son in law five pounds. I give and bequeath unto my son William Bracken five pounds. I give and bequeath unto my grand children William Andrews, and Mary Andrews; sixty acres of land now occupied by their father he to have the benefit of the said land until the said children or the survivor of them comes of age then that it be equally divided between them or given to the survivor. I give and bequeath to my son Reid Bracken all that tract of land adjoining lands of the heirs of William Long, Jas. Gaston and others containing 180 acres he paying unto my daughter Sally a share fully equal to what each of her sisters may be found to have agreeably to this present will—I

* Nevins Presbyterian Encyclopedia, page 90.

† The Presbyterian church had decided that it needed schools for the purpose of educating young men for the ministry, and it determined to locate one school at Canonsburg and the other in Virginia. This latter school was an outgrowth of "Liberty Hall" in Lexington, Va., organized by the Rev. William Graham. After its reorganization it was known as Washington College. (Thomas Bracken's oldest son by the second wife, Rev. Reid Bracken, married the daughter of Rev. William Graham.)

give and bequeath unto my wife and our children not heretofore mentioned all the residue of my real and personal estate that is to say, all the benefits or profits arising therefrom for the support and benefit of my wife and all our children untill the youngest survivor of them may come of age and then to be divided as follows that is to say:

Two full shares to my son Thomas. Two full shares to my son John. Two full shares to my son Henry. Two full shares to my son Moses. One full share to my daughter Agnes. One full share to my daughter Hannah. One full share to my daughter Jane. One full share to my daughter Mary. The said quotas to be exclusive of my wife's lawful thirds and to be paid at the discretion of my executors so that none of my heirs may be harrassed or injured on account of the payment of said quotas and in case my said wife should marry before the youngest of said children shall come of age then she shall get the 1-3 of my personal estate forever but nothing more and if any of my children should die without issue then that part of said estate is to be equally divided among all my children then surviving and I ordain and appoint my trusty friend Joshua Anderson and my son Reid Bracken my sole executors of this my last will and testament and I intrust to them the intent and purposes herein contained that they legally ascertain the value of said estate without making sale of any part thereof unless they are obliged to do so for the purpose of discharging any just debts.

In witness whereof I the said Thomas Bracken have to this my last will and testament set my hand and seal the day and year above written.

THOMAS BRACKEN.

Signed sealed and published in presence of us,

John McMillan John Buchanan."

Ann Shannon, second wife of Thomas Bracken, was born probably in Sadsbury Township, Lancaster County, Penna., and was of Scotch-Irish descent. The Shannon line was as follows:

Thomas Shannon, yeoman, lived in Sadsbury Township, Lancaster County, Pa. His will was drawn April 4th, 1737. (Lancaster records, Wills, Book A 1, p. 26.) His wife's name was Agnes (Eigness). One of his sons was named John. A John Shannon (presumably son of the above Thomas and Agnes) died some time before 1768, for on Jan. 7, of that year, his second son John appeared in an orphan's court and asked for a division or arrangement of his father's estate, stating that his father had died intestate, leaving a widow and eleven children. (Original papers Orphan's Court, Lancaster, Pa. The widow's name was Sarah (nee Reid). Ann Shannon who married Thomas Bracken, was one of these eleven children.

After the death of Thomas Bracken, his widow Ann lived on the old homestead with the youngest living son Henry until the death of her son-in-law, William Van Eman, in 1829. From that date until her death, in 1839, she lived with her widowed daughter, Mary Van Eman. She died at a good old age, respected by all who knew her. Her remains lie in Chartiers (Hill Church) burying ground, probably by the side of her husband, but the place of burial is not marked and is not known.

William Shannon in his will, drawn Sept. 22d, 1793 (first book, first will, Shelby Co., Ky.: records Shelbyville), left two hundred acres of land to his sister Ann (Shannon) Bracken at the head waters of Drinnings Lick Creek in what is now Henry Co., Ky.

XII. *James³ Bracken* (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born ———, in Delaware (?) married ——— to Mary D———, died in York County, Pa., Sept. 1778.

CHILDREN.*

43. Thomas, b. ———; m. ——— to Mary ———.
44. Caleb, b. ———; m. VIII-14-1793, to Rebecca Miller.
45. James, b. ———; m.
46. Mary, b. ——— 1773; m.
47. Jane, b. IV-20-1775; m. XII-24-1795, James Morrison.
48. John, b. ———, 1779; not married.

James Bracken lived in Huntington Township, York County, Penna.

Little is known about him except as shown by the records. Tradition says that he was a colonel in the Revolutionary army; that he was a friend of Washington; that Washington visited at his home. One descendant has an old chair as an heirloom, in which Washington is said to have sat. Another descendant has one of the Colonial fifty dollar bills which is said to have been paid him for services in the army. It is said that he sickened while in service and went home where he died. The traditionary history seems all right, but his name does not appear in the war records. This is not strange, for the war records are very imperfect. The places that he might have filled are occupied by the names of others. It is possible that the name of his successor alone appears, his name having been lost sight of by historians. It is also possible—but not probable—that his war record antedated the Revolution.

He was a warden of Christ Church, Huntington Township, York County, in 1774† and also in 1775 when the will of

*Names taken from will. There must have been a third daughter, judging from mention of six children in will (three sons), and she probably died young. The youngest son, John, must have been a posthumous child, judging both from will and date of birth.

†Christ Church Records.

John McGrew was drawn (York, Penna., Wills, Book C. page 325.)

His will, drawn Sept. 11, 1778, and recorded Oct. 29, 1778, reads as follows:

"Whereas James Bracken of Menallen Township, York County, and province of Pennsylvania being in weakness of body but in perfect mind and memory Calling to mind the certainty of death and the uncertainty of Life have made and appointed this my last Will and Testament Revoking and disannulling all other will or wills before by me made this only to be my last Will and Testament in manner and from following, viz: Imprimis. First, I commit my Soul to God who gave it to me and my body to be decently buried at the discretion of my executors hereinafter named and all funeral charges and other worldly debts everywhere to be paid. I give and bequeath to my well beloved wife one hundred and fifty pounds Lawful Money of Pennsylvania or the value thereof if she choses it to be paid or given her out of my personal Estates. If she choses to take the Goods they are to be appraised to her by two free holders and that at the Value goods was at before the war was commenced between Great Britain and America. It is my will and I leave to my said wife my Plantation and Tract of Land for the term of three years for the rasing and schooling of my three younger children She making no waste nor destroying any of the timber on said place but what is for firewood and repairing the fences and at the end of the said three years to leave the said place in good tenantable Repair then I order and direct my said executor to rent out my said plantation and tract of land till my eldest son Thomas arrives to the age of twenty-one Reserving and to be giving to my said wife to live in my dwelling house and hemp path that is between the house and barn and privilege of firewood till the place is sold and when my said son Thomas arrives to the age of twenty-one then I order and direct my said executors to sell my plantation and tract of land to any person or persons that will purchase the same and to make a good conveyance in law to the purchaser as I could do myself and when my said executors has sold my plantation and

tract of land and the remainder of my personal estate to divide the money arising from said sails in the following manner, to-wit: I order to be given to my said wife one hundred pounds lawful money of Pennsylvania to be paid out of the money that is got for my plantation and tract of land which shall be understood and taken to be in full consideration of her dower Now I have and order that all the remainder of my estate both real and personal be divided between my six children in the following manner to-wit My three sons taking two shears each of them for there sisters one shear and if any of my said children should die before they come to the age of twenty-one years unmarried having no lawful issue then and in that case their shear or shears as the case may hapen to be divided between the rest of the children observing the boys taking two shears as before. Now as I have ordered my executors to sell my estate and divide as aforesaid I order them to pay my sons their shears when they come to the age of twenty-one years and my daughters when they arrive at the age of eighteen years I order and empower my said executors to bind out my three sons Thomas James and Caleb Bracken to trades immediately after my decease and in order that they may have schooling as well as trades it is my will and I leave and order my said executors to give my said wife six months vitlin for her and the children and as much foder as will keep what stock of creators she will reserve for herself I constitute and appoint my well beloved wife Mary Bracken and my trusty friends Lewis Lewis and John McGrue to be my executors to see the accomplishment of this my last will and testament according to the true intent and meaning thereof In testimony whereof I have hereto set my hand and seal the eleventh day of September in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventy eight 1778.

JAMES BRACKEN.

Sealed and delivered in the presence of us

John Pope Junr.

Ludwig Wounblow

Elizabeth Long."

Tradition says that his wife, Mary D., was a woman of strong character and fearless. After her husband's death, she managed the farm for a time. She was executor of her husband's estate (see page 35). One story handed down concerning her states that some British soldiers turned their horses into her wheat field to feed. She had the horses driven into her barn and refused to give them up until she had received compensation for the damage done. Another story relates how she set a trap in her milk house to catch a thief; how the thief turned out to be one of her neighbors. She gave him a lecture and let him off. She is said to have been called upon as a midwife, but this I presume was among the neighborly duties necessary in those days. Tradition says she did not hesitate to mount her horse and ride off in the night to answer such calls.

She probably lived in York County until 1799 at least, for on March 27, 1799, she and John McGrew, surviving executors of James Bracken, appeared in court and produced an account showing eleven hundred and twenty-four pounds, four shillings and six pence subject to distribution. (York, Penna., Orphans Court, Book G., page 127.)

On Jan. 31, 1785 (or '83), she had appeared in court, asking that a guardian be appointed to take care of the persons and estates of Mary, aged ten years and upward, Jane, aged eight years and upward and John aged five years and upward, three of the minor children of James Bracken, deceased. Mathew Dill of Menallen Township (uncle of the children) was appointed. (York, Penna., Orphans Court Book E., page 241.)

Some time after her husband's death she moved to Pittsburgh, where at least two of her children lived.

She is said to have been a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Pittsburgh, and to be buried in the graveyard of that church. It is said that she died in a house on Woods street, near Market street, Pittsburgh, July or August, 1824.

Her will reads as follows :

Book 3, page 185, Pittsburgh—

Made July 28, 1824.

“Be it known that I Mary D. Bracken of the City of Pittsburgh do hereby make and declare this to be my last will and testament viz:—First after paying all legal demands against me and my funeral expenses I direct that my (————) cause all the monies and effects which may belong to me to be invested in such manner as he may judge best and that the interest and income thereof shall be the property of and paid by my executors to Mary Bracken (the widow of my late son Thomas Bracken) until the youngest child of said Thomas and Mary shall be twenty-one years of age on which event that is to say when the youngest child aforesaid shall be twenty-one years of age then the principal and whole of my assets and property shall be divided and disposed of between my four grandchildren the children of said Thomas and Mary as follows:—To Charles Bracken I relinquish all claims for the four hundred dollars and all other sums due me by him. To John Bracken I give two hundred dollars. To Jane Bracken I give the ten shares of stock in the Bank of Pittsburgh now standing in my name and the remainder to be divided into three equal parts, viz: One third I give to Charles Bracken. One third to James Bracken. One third to John Bracken. I hereby constitute and appoint John Shaw of the city of Pittsburg my sole executor.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 28th day of July, A. D., 1824.

her

MARY D. X BRACKEN.

mark

In presence of

Lewis Peterson

Charles L. Volz

Wm. Davis.”

- XIII. *Hannah*³ *Bracken* (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Married Nicholas Bishop and was still living April 6, 1779, when her father's will was drawn. (See page 18.)

- XIV. *Mary*³ *Bracken* (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Married James Guttory and was still living April 6, 1779, when her father's will was drawn. (See page 18.)

- XV. *Martha*³ *Bracken* (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

This Bracken married Archibald McGrew and was living as late as 1779, when her father's will was drawn. (See page 18.)

She probably had at least three children, for there is record of the baptism of Esther, daughter of Archibald and Martha McGrew, Feb. 7, 1762 (Christ Church Records), and in the will of John McGrew, dated July 6, 1775 (York Wills Book C, p. 325), he mentions grandsons John and Archibald McGrew, sons of Archibald McGrew. This will was witnessed by John Bracken, Elizabeth Bracken, and Martha McGrew, which would point strongly to its being drawn by the father in law of Martha Bracken McGrew.

Archibald McGrew was presumably "one of his Majesty's Justices of the Peace," as shown in connection with the sale of land by John McGrew, April, 1765 (York, Pa., Patent Book, p. 463), and again in connection with the sale of some land by Mathew Dill, July 17, 1765. (Deeds York Co., Pa., Book C., p. 94.)

He was vestryman of Christ Church (Huntington Twp., York Co., Pa.) in 1760, 1761, and 1798, as shown by records. He was one of the few who were assessed two pounds for work

in connection with the Glebe House connected with Christ Church, in 1761. He was warden of this same church in 1763 and 1767, and in the latter year waited upon the managers of St. Peters and Christ Church Lottery in Philadelphia, to receive money awarded for repairs of Christ Church. For this he was required to give "such security as should be necessary or agreeable to the Act of Assembly which made and provided for said lottery (Christ Church Records).

He was one of the executors for his father-in-law's estate (See page 19), and appeared in court to render an account of this estate on March 23, 1785 (Orphans Court, York, Pa., Book E., p. 250), showing them one hundred and eleven (111) pounds for distribution; and again March 24, 1795, as the "only surviving executor," he produced an account showing 727 pounds, 13 shillings and 10 pence as this estate. (York County Records).

He was named as one of the executors in the will of his brother-in-law John Bracken (see page 26), but apparently refused to serve (York Co., Pa., Wills, Book E, p. 365).

He was executor for ——— Abbett (York Co., Pa. Deeds Book 2 p. 417). Also for Finley McGrew of Tyrone Township, York County Pa. (Wills, York, Pa. Book B, p. 99.) Also for John McGrew, yeoman (his father probably), of Huntington Township, York County, Pa. (York, P. Wills Book C, p. 325).

The will of John McGrew, drawn July 6, 1775, and probated Dec. 6, 1775, mentions among his heirs his sons Archibald and William, and grandsons (sons of Archibald) John and Archibald. Archibald McGrew's name appears (York Co., Pa. Deeds Book D 2, p. 49) as a purchaser at sheriff's sale Feb. 4, 1786, of one hundred acres of land from John Wilson's estate in Huntington Township, for £110. Again, probably the same Archibald McGrew, but described as of Allen Township, Cumberland Co., Pa., appears as the purchaser of two tracts of land from James Crawford and his wife Ann Price, Sept. 4, 1791, for £300. (York, Pa. Deeds Book H 2, p. 39).

XVI. *Margaret³ Bracken* (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

As shown in the will of her father, (see page 18) it appears that this Bracken had married William McGrew and had children. She was dead at the time her father's will was drawn, April 6, 1779. William McGrew was probably a son of John McGrew and brother of Archibald McGrew. In a transfer of land from Nicholas Detrieth, Sr., to Michael Detrieth, his son, in Tyrone Township (late in the County of Lancaster, now in York County), it is stated that William McGrew and *Margaret*, his wife, sold April 20, 1765, to William Hill, two hundred acres of land (York Co., Deeds Book M 2, p. 537). This land had come to John McGrew (father of William?) from the Honorables Thomas and Richard Penn, Aug. 4, 1750 (York Co., Deeds Book D. p. 187). This probably refers to the William McGrew and Margaret Bracken. If William was the son of John, he was one of the executors of his father's estate. (York Co., Wills Book C, p. 325).

XVII. *Jean³ Bracken* (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

As shown in the will of her father (page 18), this Bracken married Mathew Dill, and was still living April 6, 1779. Mathew Dill, of Menallen Township, York County, Penna., was appointed guardian for three minor children of James Bracken, his brother-in-law, Jan. 31, 1785 (York Co., Pa., Records Orphans Court Book E, p. 241), and March 24, 1785, he was made guardian for three children of John Bracken—also a brother-in-law (York Co., Pa., Records Orphans Court, Book E, p. 251).

He had land in Westmoreland (Indiana County), Penna., in 1784 (see page 21), and has at the present time (Aug. 10, 1899) descendants living at Dilltown, Indiana Co., Pa., (Mr. B. S. Dill, a farmer).

- XIX. *Thomas⁴ Bracken* (William,³ page 20) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Thomas Bracken was probably born in York (Adams) Co., Pa., about 1760—married in Westmoreland (Indiana) Co., Pa., to Margaret (Peggy) Wakefield. Died in Cambria Co., Pa.

CHILDREN.

49. William, b. ———; m. ——— Margaret Boner.
50. John, b. ———; not married.
51. Thomas, b. VII-4-1800; m. XII-22-1832, Mary Davis.
52. Polly (Mary?), b. ———; m. ——— John Wakefield.
53. Martha, b. ———; m. ——— Jacob McCarthy.
54. Elizabeth, b. ———; m. ——— James McKisson.
55. Isaac, b. ———; m. ———.
56. James W., b. ———; m. ——— Ann E. Willit.
57. David, b. ———, 1814; m. ——— Christina Roger.
58. Ruth, b. ———; m. ——— Anthony Andrews.
59. Nathan, b. ———; m. ———.

This Thomas Bracken was known as "Short Tommy," to distinguish him from his cousin who lived in the same county, and known as "Long Tommy" (see page 45). His descendants seem to know almost nothing of his early life. He was a farmer and miller. Whether he had land from his father, William, is not known. A warrant was issued to Thomas Bracken (Probably this man) by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, for 400 acres of land in Westmoreland Co., Penna., May 9, 1793 (Greensburg Deeds, Book 2 p. 415).

He was unfortunate financially and finally lost his farm in Indiana Co., by sheriff's sale, the property then passing into the hands of his cousin, "Long Tommy." After the losing of this farm, "Short Tommy" removed to a farm (which he owned?) at Laurel Hill, Cambria Co., Pa., where both he and his wife finally died. His son David afterward owned this farm.

Some time after reaching manhood, he was bitten by a pet bear and crippled for life.

He, his wife and most of his descendants, belonged to the Methodist Church.

Margaret (Peggy) Wakefield, was the daughter of David Wakefield and Mary Wade. She was born in Ireland.

David Wakefield, her father, was born in Ireland, on the family estate, on the road between Aughvin and Ballinasloe. Mary Wade, her mother, was the daughter of Jeremiah Wade, a wealthy landed proprietor. According to tradition, David Wakefield was forced to leave Ireland because he and two of his brothers were found out as implicated in a plot against Catholic rule in Ireland. David was hid by his wife in a hogshead with clothing, and in this way was taken on board a ship sailing for America. It was some time between 1768 and 1773 that they left Ireland. Their younger children (probably including Margaret) were born in America. (For more relating to the Wakefields, see the Wakefield Genealogy, by Dr. Homer Wakefield, of Bloomington, Illinois.)

XX. *William⁴ Bracken* (William,³ page 20) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

There is nothing to show whether this man or his brother, "Short Tommy," was the older. When he was born is not known. He married Mary Garrison, daughter of Elijah Garrison. He died in Westmoreland (Indiana) Co., prior to April 15, 1794. They had three children, as follows:

CHILDREN.

60. Edward William, b ———; died young.

61. Levi, b. ———; m. ———.

62. Thomas, b. v-22-1794; m. II-12-1801, Mathilda Coen.

This man must have died when comparatively young. William Bracken (probably this man) received 400 acres of land in Wheatfield Township, Westmoreland (Indiana) Co., Pa., for £10, by warrant from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, dated May 9th, 1793. (Greensburg, Pa., Deeds, Book 2, p. 415.)

On March 1st, 1794, he gave a quitclaim deed to the heirs of William Bracken, senior (his father), as follows:

"Know all men by these presents that I William Bracken of Wheatfield Township, Westmoreland Co. & State of Pennsylvania, have remised, released and forever quitclaimed and by these presents do for me my heirs executors and administrators, remise, release and forever quitclaim unto _____ all interest, title and benefits arising out of my future estate but only one equal share with the rest of the legatees In witness whereof I the said Wm Bracken have hereunto set my hand and seal the first day of March in the year of our Lord 1794.

Signed sealed and delivered
in the presence of

Hugh Gallagher,
James Wakefield,
David Wakefield.

It is to be considered by the above release that each of the legatees shall make a true return of what they have already got from my father's estate, otherwise it shall be of no effect.

WILLIAM BRACKEN."

His will was drawn the same date (March 1st, 1794) and recorded April 15, 1794. It reads as follows:

"In the name of God Amen. I, William Bracken of Wheatfield Township, Westmoreland Co., Pa., being weak of body but of sound memory blessed be God, do this day being the first of March in the year of our Lord 1794 make and publish this my last will and testament in manner following that is to say. First I give and bequeath my soul unto God who gave it and my body to the dust to be buried at the discretion of my executors and friends, I also order my funeral charges paid and lawful debts if any there be also I give and bequeath unto my dear and beloved wife the sum of twenty pounds also I give and bequeath unto my mother one feather bed and bed-clothes, one cow, two pots, what pewter and such of the household furniture as she shall stand in need of and all the rest of my estate

real and personal I give and bequeath unto my children to be equally divided between them, but if it should happen that the child (with whom my wife is now pregnant) be a daughter she the said daughter is to have but half as much as one of my sons. It is also my will that my children be under the direction and control of my mother and my brother Thomas Bracken and that at the proper time they be put to trades I also make and ordain my said brother Thomas Bracken and my worthy friend James Wakefield my sole executors of this my last will and testament to which I set my hand and seal this date before written.

WILLIAM BRACKEN.

Signed in the presence of

William Clarke, Hugh Gallagher

Thomas Clarke.

Recorded Apr. 15, 1794.

It would seem from his will that his wife was not a rugged woman, for he expressed the wish that his children be under the direction and control of his mother and brother Thomas. At the time of his death, there were probably two boys living; the third boy was born a few days after his father's death. The oldest boy died probably in Westmoreland Co., for he was but a mere child at the time (said to have been but two years old. He may have been younger than Levi.).

His wife was taken by her father, Elijah Garrison, to Cincinnati in 1797, and there she died the same year. The boys were brought up by the grandfather, Elijah Garrison. Elijah Garrison died in Indiana, at the home of his grandson, Levi Bracken. The Garrisons were of the New Jersey line. Elijah Garrison's father was in the Revolutionary war.

- XXI. *Thomas⁴ Bracken* (John,³ page 24) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born probably in York (Adams) Co., Pa., July 30, 1764—married probably in York (Adams) Co., Dec. 18, 1787, to Sarah Twinem—died in Indiana Co., Pa., Jan. 10, 1851.

CHILDREN.

63. Margaret, b. ———; died young.
64. Elizabeth, b. ———; m. ——— Thomas Clarke.
65. John (1), died young.
(2) ——— 1830, Elizabeth Cameron.
66. Twinem, b. ———; died young.
67. John (2) b. III-28-1796; m. (1) ———, 1820, Sarah Pearce.
68. William, b. III-27-1798; m. x ——— 1822, Jane Cameron.
69. Mary, b. VI-12-1801; m. ———, George Clarke.
70. Thomas H., b. IX-13-1802; m. XII-18-1823, Elizabeth Carned.
71. James Twinem, b. ———; m. ——— Priscilla Clarke (or Hawes).

This Thomas Bracken was a large, heavy man and was known as "long Tommy," to distinguish him from his cousin "short Tommy" (see page 41). Tradition states that he was a mere boy during the Revolutionary war, living with his widowed mother in York (Adams) Co., Pa., and his home was in eastern Pennsylvania, until after the death of his brother John in Westmoreland Co., Pa., in 1802. He then moved to Indiana Co., Pa., and settled upon the property that his brother John left, and spent the remainder of his life there. He was a tanner by trade. When his cousin "short Tommy's" farm was sold by sheriff's sale, it came into this man's possession. His wife was of the Methodist church, and the descendants are largely of that religious faith.

Thomas met with an accident, either from timber falling upon him or from a fall himself, while showing a man what timber to cut. By this he was crippled for the rest of his life, and in consequence prevailed upon his son William to live upon the homestead and care for his parents. This he did so long as they lived.

XXVI. *John⁴ Bracken* (John,³ page 24) Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

This man was born in 1775 and died in 1802. He went to Westmoreland, (Indiana) County, secured land, planted fruit trees and was building a story and a half log house, when he was taken sick and died. The property passed to his brother Thomas (see page 45). He was not married.

XXVIII. *Martha⁴ Bracken* (Thomas,³ page 28) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born in Adams (York) Co., Pa., May 10, 1765—married to Samuel Shannon about 1783; died near Shelbyville, Kentucky, Feb. 23, 1838, buried in a private burying ground near Shelbyville.

CHILDREN.

72. John, b. iv-28-1784; m. ———, Finley.
73. Thomas, b. ii-13-1786; m. ———.
74. Agnes, b. ix-1-1787; m. ——— William Boyd.
75. Sarah, b. iv-11-1790; m. i-26-1809, John James Roberts.
76. Anna, b. ix-6-1792; m. ———, John Harbison.
77. William, b. v-14-1795; m. ———, Rachel Howell.
78. Samuel, b. vii-19-1797; m. xi-30-1820, Deborah Younger.
79. Elizabeth, b. iii-16-1800; m. ———, Salem Wallace.
80. Martha, b. vii-12-1803; m. x-17-1822, David Emmison.
81. Mary, b. i-30-1806; not married.
82. Esther, b. vii-20-1808; not married.

This Bracken seems to have been an excellent woman. Her large family was well cared for and respected. Her husband, Samuel Shannon, was a brother of her step-mother, Ann Shannon Bracken (see page 31). As the Shannons thus come doubly into the Bracken family, it may be interesting to give rather particular note of the family up to this date.

John Shannon, of Sadsbury Township, Lancaster Co., Pa., dying about 1768, left eleven children besides the widow, Sarah Reid Shannon.* Of this large family, some married and settled in Western Pennsylvania. (Margaret married Thomas Byers and Ann, Thomas Bracken; both lived their married life and died in Washington Co., Pa.), but most of the family settled in the south (Virginia, Tennessee and Kentucky). One of the most interesting of this large family probably was William Shannon, who lived and died a bachelor.† In all probability he first went from Eastern Virginia to that part of Virginia which afterward became Kentucky in 1782. (Kentucky was made a state in 1792.) He probably first entered Kentucky with a surveying party. He took up large tracts of land,—200,000 acres it is said, and this is quite probable. He

*It is thought by some that this was the Captain John Shannon who was in the provincial service, 1746-1747. See Pennsylvania Archives, Series I, Vol. I, pp 688, 689; Series II, Vol. II, 419, 425; Series II, Vol. III, p. 496.

†Collins' History of Kentucky refers several times to William Shannon. On page 26, Vol. I, an account is given of Captain (Wm.) Shannon, who, with Col. Archibald Lochery and others, and one hundred and one men, were on their way down the Ohio river, Aug. 25th, 1782, to join Gen. Clarke's expedition. They landed on the Indiana shore (Lochery creek) nine miles below the Great Miami river. They were fired upon by the Indians. Forty-two were killed and sixty-four taken prisoners (including Captain Shannon). Those captured were taken north some distance. (See also Vol. II, p. 54.)

Tradition tells a story that may refer to the same as above, to the effect that William Shannon was on his way down the Ohio river to New Orleans with a boat load of flour for sale. He stopped and went ashore for a short time hunting. The Indians seized the boat; threw the flour into the river, and took Shannon and his men prisoners and carried them to Northern Ohio. They escaped and got back to the Ohio river again. At this time he lost his surveying instruments. He secured others from a Frenchman.

William Shannon was a member of the Virginia legislature (Jefferson County) in 1790. (Collins' History Vol. I, p. 366), and of the House of Representatives of Kentucky (Shelby County) 1793.—Collins' History, Vol. II, p. 709. See also Marshall's History of Kentucky, and History of Shelby County, Kentucky.

owned the land upon which Shelbyville, Kentucky, now stands, and gave to the county (Shelby) the public square in the centre of Shelbyville. He must have been prominent in war, as well as in civil affairs. He was preparing to go as an officer with Wayne on his campaign in 1794, when his end came in a very tragic manner. There had been some ill-feeling between himself and a man named Felter, living in Shelbyville. The quarrel had been made up. Felter had invited Shannon into his house for dinner. Shannon had accepted and was sitting at the table eating, when Felter's wife said something that started the quarrel again. Shannon said he would not eat in a house where people talked so, and thereupon rose from the table, left the house, and was crossing the street near the common, when some one shouted to him to look out; that Felter was about to throw a stone at him. Shannon turned about and saw Felter in the act of throwing the stone. He threw a dirk at Felter at the same time that Felter threw the stone. The dirk struck Felter and killed him instantly. The stone struck Shannon and he died the next day. This, tradition says, was in July, 1794.

It was this William Shannon who was probably the means of several of his brothers and sisters settling in Kentucky. (Agnes, who married James Roberts; Sally, who married — Brown, and brothers Samuel, Thomas and George.)

Samuel Shannon (who married Martha Bracken), born April 15th, 1750, died May 14th, 1813, early followed his brother to Kentucky. The first record of land to Samuel is dated 1787. He was closely related to his brother William in business matters; and was one of the chief legatees and the executor of William's will. His descendants often speak of his disregard for land, stating that he traded some off for a song, while some he let go for taxes. Both of these men figured in the early Kentucky legislature. Both had more or less to do with the early Indian wars and with the Revolutionary war, although of the latter I have no positive record unless the Lieut. Samuel Shannon mentioned in the Pennsylvania Archives (Series II, Vol. 14, p. 747, of Washington Co., Pa., militia, and in service on the frontier, 1782 to 1785, is the same.)

It is altogether probable that it is, for he certainly was in Washington Co. at that time.

XXIX. *William⁴ Bracken* (Thomas,³ page 28) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born in Adams (York) Co., Pa., 1768; died near Shelbyville, Kentucky, April, 1850; buried in a private burying ground on the Roberts farm, near Shelbyville, Kentucky, by the side of his sister, Martha Shannon. He was married twice, first to Jane Thompson, about 1793; second to Mrs. Sarah ——— (nee King), 1824.

CHILDREN.

First wife:

83. Thomas, b. VII-24-1794; m. (1) VI-12-1833 to Mary McMillan, (2) Mrs. Mary Harp, nee Schaeffer.
84. Martha, b. ———; not married.
85. Ann, b. ———; m. ——— to William Gray.
86. Jane, b. ———; not married.
87. Andrew Thompson, b. 1802; m. ——— to Mrs. Mary L. Crook Pennel.
88. William, b. ———; m. ———.
89. Nancy (Agnes), (1) b. ———; died young.
90. Hannah, b. VII-23-1808; m. X-3-1832, to James Greenlee.
91. Samuel, b. II-1-1810; m. (1) III-15-1831, to Hannah Brown, (2) I—1846, to Jane C. McKeage, (3)—1868, to Rebecca Brown nee Wiley.
92. John, b. I-1-1812; m. III-13-1831, to Irene Smith.
93. Nancy (Agnes) (2), b. ———; m. XII-31-1834, to John Shearer.
94. George W., b. XII-9-1816; m. III-31-1844, to Angelina Lloyd.

Second wife:

95. Newton, b. ———; m. ———.
96. Milton, b. ———; m. ———.
97. Henry, b. ———; m. ———.

98. Sarah, b. ———; m. ———.

99. Mary Jane, b. ———; m. ———.

William Bracken was a small boy about 9 years old when his father married the second time. His step-mother, when she was brought home as a bride by his father, gave presents to the four children to whom she was to serve as mother, in order to win their good graces. To William she gave a pen-knife.

William must have had a busy life. He was married twice. By his first wife he had twelve children. After his first marriage, he lived on a farm near Canonsburg, Pa., for some time. He traded this farm—which had probably been given him by his father—to his brother-in-law, William Thompson, for a larger farm (400 acres) in Erie County—Fort La Boeuf, near Union City, Pa., and moved to it about 1808.* Here he built a hewn log house, said by some of his descendants to have been two stories high—an extra good house for those times and parts.

He was one of the first trustees of the Waterford Presbyterian church when organized under the Rev. John Mathews, and was afterwards made a ruling elder. More might be learned of his relation to this church, but for the fact that its records are very incomplete. At the time of the war of 1812, family cares bore heavily upon this man, and his oldest son Thomas served as his substitute in service.

In 1814 he left his farm at Fort La Boeuf, and moved upon a farm on the flats, near Waterford, which had been cleared out by the French, and was reserved by the state for the support of an academy at Waterford. He had the contract for building the Waterford Academy. The stone was cut for the academy by twelve Irishmen and brought from Pittsburg for the purpose. They lodged in a rented house. From this home, his children could attend school and they enjoyed these priv-

*There is confusion of dates here that cannot be straightened out easily. John Bracken (son of William) is said to have been born near Canonsburg. This was in 1812. It is stated that Thomas (oldest son of William) was 14 years old when they moved to Erie County. This would make the date 1808. Hugh Wilson states that Sarah Bracken was married to James Thompson at her half-brothers in 1811. Facts seem to point to the probability that William Bracken moved to Erie County, about 1808.

ileges for a time, but his wife, who was an excellent woman, sickened and died. At this time he had ten children at home—five sons and five daughters. He had lost one child, and his oldest son had gone to the “far west.” (Ohio, near Wooster.) He married his second wife about 1824—a “young widow with five children.” This did not meet with the approval of some of the oldest children by the first wife and they left home. In 1826 he returned from Waterford to his own farm near Fort La Boeuf. By his second wife he had five children. In 1846 his second wife died. He was then 78 years old. He had had a hard time struggling along with a large family. He never was a very rugged man. After his second wife’s death, his family scattered, and he set out on what proved to be his last journey. Driving, he visited friends and relations in Western Pennsylvania, in Ohio, Indiana, Illinois and Kentucky. The following letter, written from Kentucky, gives some idea of this trip:

“Saturday November 10 1849 Shelbyville, Kentucky.

Children I found A letter in my trunck A few minutes ago from Georg dateed december 18 1848, which said write often i felt Gilty & now I go at it and my letter will be to all my children in Collumbus my health has been good for an old man I was somewhat troubled with a pain in the back of my head this I had before I left you you never seen little sorrel as fat as he is this day I left your Brother AB the 17 of October I spent one cold winter and one warm summer in all you cant have any eiday what pleasant summer i had the roads was good & I was kept every day Galanting other mens wives & widows and young girls this you know suits me riding in the buggy helps my head. I came through Indianey I was at James Thompson’s father in law he was expected there this fall it is 400 miles from rock River to this place I traveled 500 miles in Ell state* I brought Mary to rock river last spring to teach chool I left here there perhaps she is in pen† now I need not take up your time in telling you about Cuntries you have heard

*Illinois.

†Pennsylvania.

all about them Elynois is a good country but it is hard bilding
 lumber is 20 dollars per thousand feet A tealor will get from 10
 to 15 bushels of wheat for making a coat a man will get 4 bu
 of corn for one days One neighbor soeed 80 bushels of spring
 wheat last spring the have reapers that will cut from 15 to 20
 acres of wheat in one day thompson has share of one. thomp-
 son's farm is as level as your floor & as clear of stumps and
 stones I am deceived with the appearance of kentucky is 60
 years since I seen it the roads is round farms and through
 gates except the turnpike it is good the tol is 10 cents five
 miles for horseand buggythe friendship every place cant be told
 the have shed tears on parting with me who was no relation I
 get presents I expect a Broad Cloath Coat some of these days
 I have concluded to stay here this winter my friends wont hear
 of me going at all the unckel the have in the world I got
 first sally Roberts my nees as soon as sam shannon my nephew
 heard that i was at his sisters he came & his wife and daughter
 to see me as soon as the spoke to me I stept out on the porch
 I felt ful I could not speak was in site of my sisters grave
 meeting waith her son he followed me out sat down beside me
 & said I will tell you what I want you to do I want you to come
 to my house and make it your home he is rich he has plenty of
 black chaps but he says it would be better if he had none he has
 a great house I can have a warm room and bed he is the man
 that James thompson said had 30 silver bols to drink out of he
 said the did not cost him anything he got them as a premium at
 the fair he is now getting 500 for 10 week riding as agent to
 by hogs I will be there & at sally Roberts Mostly I feel as if I
 would be berryed beside my sister I think it my duty to be pre-
 pared Dear children dont neglect prair remember the sabith
 Kepe your Children from bols & all that you have any influence
 over Read the 6th Chapter of Mattha 33 verse there you will
 see your duty.

This leter is to all my friends but John & george Brackens
 familyes in particular.

I wish to Receive letter from some of you as soon as you
 get this for I am uneasy to hear from all I suppose Mrss

Seffield daughter told you that she seen me in Belvedeer be sure to write & direct your leters to Shelbyville County postop —kentucky.

No more from your father.

WM. BRACKEN.*

John M. Bracken

George W. Bracken.

He had started to drive back to his Pennsylvania home from Kentucky in the spring of 1850, but had gone but a short distance when he was taken ill and died at the home of his niece, Mrs. Emmison. He was 82 years old at the time of his death.

Jane Thompson, first wife of William Bracken, was the daughter of Andrew Thompson and Martha his wife. The Thompsons moved from Ireland to the United States and settled in Erie County, Pa. (about 1797). The parents were past the meridian of life at this time, three or four of their children were married. Jane was about 12 years old when they left Ireland. The Thompsons were "seceders" in religion.

Sarah ——— (nee King), second wife of William Bracken, was the daughter of Captain Robert King. She bore ten children—five to her first husband and five to her second. She died at the age of 53, in the spring of 1846, and was buried near her parents in the Oak Grove burying ground at La Boeuf.

XXX. *Ann⁴ Bracken* (Thomas,³ page 28) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born in Adams (York) Co., probably about 1770.
Married to David Andrews, a farmer.

CHILDREN.

100. William, b. ———; m. ———.

101. Mary, b. ———; m. ———.

But little is known of this Bracken. She died some time previous to 1803, for her father, in his will, drawn Feb. 8th,

*No envelope for this letter, but the two long sheets were folded together.

[ED. NOTE.—This old letter is in the possession of his grandson, Charles H. Bracken, Corry, Pa.

1803, left to his grandchildren, William and Mary Andrews, sixty acres, upon which they were then living with their father near Canonsburg. This property afterwards passed into the hands of ——— Park, a farmer.

XXXI. *Samuel*⁴ *Bracken* (Thomas,³ page 28) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Samuel Bracken, youngest son of Thomas Bracken by his first wife, was born probably in Adams (York) Co., Penna., and died at Canonsburg when a young man. At the time of his death he was a student, some say in the academy, others say of theology under Dr. McMillan. He might easily have been an academic student under Dr. McMillan, and with the intent of studying for the ministry. He probably died about or following 1790, and was not far from 20 years of age at the time.

XXXII. *Reid*⁴ *Bracken* (Thomas,³ page 28) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born in Adams (York) Co., Penna., Sept. 24, 1778; married Mary Graham, at Lexington, Va., May 1st, 1806; died at Mt. Nebo, Butler County, Penna., July 29th, 1849.

CHILDREN.

102. Mary, b. ———; died young.
103. William G., b. VII-20-1808; never married.
104. Thomas H., b. IX-18-1810; m. I-25-1828, to Sarah M. McCurdy.
105. Newton, b. XI-30-1812; m. (1) IX-10-1841, to Pamela Craig; (2) ———, 1860, to Jerusha Craig.
106. Maria, b. XII-13-1814; m. (1) ———, to M. W. Spear, M. D.; (2) ———, to John Stevenson.
107. Cyprian, b. II-10-1817; m. ———, to Cornelia C. Rice.
108. Anne, b. VI-28-1820; never married.

109. John R., b. VII-7-1826; m. ———, to Elizabeth Martin.

In his father's will Reid Bracken was left 180 acres of land under certain conditions.

Reid Bracken was the son of Thomas Bracken and Ann (Shannon) Bracken.

"When he was an infant of six weeks old, his father removed with his family to Washington County in the same state, and found a home in what was soon to become the congregation of Chartiers. The same year Rev. John McMillan began to preach stately to the people of that neighborhood. Thomas Bracken was one of the first elders elected after the organization of the church, and his little son Reid, the subject of this sketch, the first child baptized in the congregation, and indeed the first male child baptized west of the Allegheny mountains. The mother of Reid was a woman of strong good sense and great decision of character, and brought up her family in the fear of God. His father was a farmer and accustomed to labor and brought up his son to the same avocation until he was nearly of age, when, finding his mind was inclined to study, and with a desire for preparation for the ministry, he furnished him a Latin Grammar and the work of preparation commenced."

"Reid Bracken graduated at Jefferson College in 1802, being a member of the first class that graduated after the college was chartered. His name stands at the head of the list, with the names of Johnson Eaton, Wm. McMillan and Israel Pickens, as classmates. Of course he studied theology with Dr. McMillan, and in due time was licensed to preach the gospel by the Presbytery of Ohio. This occurred on the 17th of October, 1805. He traveled one year in Ohio and Virginia, preaching to vacant churches. In the year 1806 he went to Butler County, Pa., when he received calls to the pastoral charge of the congregation of Mt. Nebo and Plain. On the 20th day of October, 1807, he was received under the care of the Presbytery of Erie, and Isa. lii: 11, middle clause assigned him as a subject of trials for ordination. On the 20th day of April, 1808,

he was ordained to the whole work of the ministry, and installed pastor of these churches. In these exercises William Wood preached the sermon and Nicholas Pittinger delivered the charges. In these congregations he labored faithfully, giving one-half his time to each, until Oct. 7th, 1819, when he was released from the Plain church, and on the 28th of September, 1820, installed as pastor of Middlesex. His labors continued in the church at Middlesex until 1832, when he resigned and became pastor of the church of Portersville. But during all these years he continued to give the half of his time to Mt. Nebo, being pastor there for the period of thirty-seven years. About five years before his death he resigned his pastoral charge. He felt the infirmities of age coming upon him, and not being able to go in and out before the people as in earlier days, gave way to more vigorous laborers. Still he continued to preach, as opportunities offered, until the close of his life. His last sermon to his old charge at Mt. Nebo was from the words of the Apostle, Cor. xii, 27: — "Now ye are the body of Christ and members in particular." One week before his death he rode ten miles and preached to one of his old congregations from the words, "They shall be mine, saith the Lord of Hosts, in that day when I make up my jewels." It was his last sermon, and so strong was the impression made upon the minds of his friends that, after he was laid in his last sleep, these words were engraved upon his tombstone. He was confined to his couch but a few days during his last illness. Three days previous to his decease he was asked whether he had anything to say to his family previous to his departure. He addressed them as follows,—the words being taken down by one of the family at the time:

"My children, you are all here. It is a solemn time. From present appearances I am about to leave you, having served my generation, and am going to render up my account to my Judge. I have a comfortable hope of meeting my Saviour in peace, and spending eternity in happiness. It is of the greatest consequence to have a hope that maketh not ashamed. It is my sincere desire that all my children shall be prepared. * *

* * Give all diligence to make your calling and election sure.
* * * Rely upon the merits of Christ as the only foundation
of hope. * * * Now is the accepted time, now is the day
of Salvation. Salvation is free to all that will accept. Come
unto me all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give
you rest." *

"This address was followed by a short and feeling prayer, and so he went down into the valley, leaning on the rod and staff of the Good Shepherd, and passing over the river to dwell with God. He died on his farm in Butler County, Pa., on the 20th day of July, 1849, in the seventy-second year of his age, and the forty-fourth of his ministry. Reid Bracken was united in marriage to Mary Graham, of Lexington, Va., on the 1st day of May, 1806. She was the youngest daughter of that distinguished servant of God, Rev. William Graham, founder of Washington College, Virginia, to whom frequent reference is made in the life of Dr. Archibald Alexander. After a long and useful life, she went to rejoin her husband in eternal union, Dec. 30, 1863, in the seventy-eighth year of her age. They had eight children. Reid Bracken moved to Butler County when it was new and the people poor. Like his people, he commenced in the woods, and by the labor of his own hands cut down the forest and opened for himself a farm, which he afterwards cultivated with his own hands to assist in the support of his family. His sons well remember the time when his practice was to labor in the field five days in the week and devote the Saturday to the work of preparation for the pulpit. He was a stalwart, and could excel most able-bodied men in laboring with an axe, or in the harvest field. His physical health was almost uniformly good, and with all his labor on his farm, his mind did not become secularized. He labored faithfully in the Master's field. Many churches were built up through the instrumentality of his labors. He knew nothing of the eloquence that holds an audience spell-bound with the beauty of hopes and the grand flow of fitly chosen words. Yet he could set forth Christ crucified with love and zeal and effect. He

*Some of his words were inaudible.

stood high in the estimation of his brethren as a sound and earnest preacher of the New Testament."

"As a member of the ecclesiastical courts he was punctual and attentive. He seldom spoke, yet when he did, it was to the point, and his remarks always had great weight."

He was one of the original members of the Presbytery of Allegheny, and continued a member until his death.

History states that the Presbyterian church decided that it needed schools for the purpose of educating young men for the ministry, and it determined to locate one school at Canonsburg, Pa., and one at Lexington, Va. It is interesting to note that Reid Bracken and his wife were children of fathers who were interested in the founding of these two schools,—Thomas Bracken with Canonsburg Academy, afterwards Jefferson College, and Rev. Wm. Graham organizer of Liberty Hall, which afterward became Washington College, Lexington, Va. He died in Richmond while on business there with the legislature, and his friends, because of the difficulty in traveling and the distance from home, buried him there, and erected a monument over his grave "which remains to the present time."

XXXIII. *Thomas⁴ Bracken* (Thomas,³ page 28) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born near Canonsburg, Pa., Nov. 12, 1780; married (1) Elizabeth Morrow, (2) Ann Davidson.

CHILDREN.—(ALL BY FIRST WIFE.)

- 110. Sarah, b. ———, 1805; not married.
- 111. Ann, b. 11-22-1807; m. X-11-1827, to Robert Harper.
- 112. James, b. ——— 1809; not married.
- 113. Reed, b. I———, 1811; m. ———, to Hannah Calahan.
- 114. William, b. I———, 1811; m. ——— (1) Sarah Harris, nee Dunwoody, (2) Sarah Cope.
- 115. Thomas T., b. VI-30-1814; m. III-19-1835, to Mariah Jane Lindsey.

- 116. John, b. ———; not married.
- 117. Vance, b. ———; m. ——— to Eliza J. Coryea.
- 118. John Newton, b. ———, 1824; m. ———, to ———
Hamilton.

This Thomas Bracken was a farmer and lived for years upon part of the property secured by his father in Washington County, Pa., near Canonsburg. His father was first buried on the part of the farm that Thomas occupied, but his remains were afterwards removed to the Chartiers burying ground. After his large family was grown, he sold the Canonsburg home to ——— Murray and removed to Mercer County, where he died at a good old age. He was a genial, peaceable, good-natured man: not given to meddling with his neighbor's affairs nor to assume public responsibility. He was a consistent member of the Presbyterian church, and was a ruling elder. Both he and his first wife are buried at Neshanoc church, near Mercer, Pa. He was well advanced in years when he married his second wife and had no children by her.

XXXIV. Sarah⁴ Bracken (Thomas,³ page 28) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born near Canonsburg, Pa., Feb. 21, 1782: married near Waterford, Pa., at the home of her half brother, William Bracken, 1811, to John Thompson; died May ———, 1854, near Union, Pa.

CHILDREN.

- 119. William, b. ———, 1812; m. ———.
- 120. Andrew, b. IV-15-1813; m. X-11-1833, to Sarah Smith.
- 121. Ann, b. XII-29-1814; m. XII-11-1833, to Alexander Smith.
- 122. James M., b. VII-1-1818; m. XII-11-1841, to Michael Ann Miller.
- 123. Alexander, b. ———, 1818; m. ———.
- 124. Eliza Jane, b. 11-23-1820; m. XI-21-1839, to David Wilson.

This woman had an eventful life. In 1811, while visiting her half brother, William Bracken, and her sister, Agnes, wife of the Rev. John Mathews, in Erie County, Pa., she married John Thompson, a brother of the wife of William Bracken. For a time they lived on the farm of the husband's parents and cared for the old people (the Thompsons). In 1817, John Thompson and a neighbor (Watson) built a boat at Waterford, Pa. They, with their families (three or four children) and Rev. John Mathews and wife, launched out in this boat, taking all their goods with them and floated down Le Boeuf and French creeks and the Allegheny and Ohio rivers to the Mississippi river. This trip was undertaken because of the flattering accounts which William Thompson sent back to Pennsylvania from Missouri.* From the mouth of the Ohio river this boat was towed and pushed up the Mississippi and Missouri rivers to St. Charles, Mo., where the party settled. The land that this party left behind in Erie County was not sold at the time. (It could not be sold, there was no demand for it.) In Missouri the soil was all that could be wished for but there was constant sickness.† John Thompson died in 1826 (or 1823). Agnes Mathews also died. John Thompson's widow struggled on for a few years after her husband's death trying to sell the farm, but failed to do so and disease (malaria) continuing to exist, she finally determined to return to her old home in Pennsylvania. Not being able to sell the place and not having means to pay for the journey by water, she fitted up a wagon and started for the long overland journey with six children. She would try to arrange so that she and her two little girls could sleep at night in some house. The four boys would sleep in the covered wagon. She would not travel Sundays.

*William Thompson was a brother of John, husband of Sarah Bracken, and of Jane, wife of William Bracken. He was the one who traded farms with William Bracken. He did not stay at Washington County, Pa., very long, but went west and was pilot on the Mississippi river.

†An old deserted channel of the Missouri river would fill with water when the river was high, and when the river fell, the water would remain and stagnate. The Thompson family had the fever every year while they remained there.

Finally she reached her brothers (Thomas and Henry) at the old home in Washington County, Pa. A house was fitted up for the family and her boys worked upon the farms of their uncles until they were sufficiently grown to take care of a farm of their own. Then the mother returned with her children to the farm that she had left fourteen years before, unsold because they could not sell it, in Erie County, Pa. Here she lived and kept her children together. Finally she allowed the farm to be divided. Two sons went West and settled. She lived with those remaining in Erie County until May, 1854, when she died. She had shown much fortitude in all her trials and came out victorious. "She accomplished more in the world in her modest, unassuming way, than many others who have attained great celebrity. She talked but little, and was never known to say a word that she did not believe to be strictly true. Her example of Christian piety will shine far down the line of her posterity."

John Thompson (whom Sarah Bracken married) was son of Andrew Thompson and Martha, and brother of Jane Thompson, who married William Bracken (see page 49). He was probably born in Ireland and was a young boy when his parents, Andrew and Martha, settled in the wilderness in Erie County, Pa., about 1797. The Thompsons were very religious in their way. They had family worship three times a day, but would have no fellowship with those who sang Watts' version of the Psalms, nor would the father permit his children to hear those preach who did, if he could prevent it.

XXXV. *Agnes⁴ (Nancy) Bracken* (Thomas,³ page 28) Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born near Canonsburg, Pa., Nov. 24, 1783. Married Rev. John Mathews. She had no children. After her marriage her home was at Waterford, Pa., for a time. In 1817 she went with her husband and her sister Sarah's family, by water to Missouri. There she died probably about 1820.

Rev. John Mathews. (Nevin's Presb. Cyclopædia.)

Born Beaver County, Pa., Feb. 7, 1777; graduated Jefferson College, 1807; studied theology with Rev. John McMillan. On the 26th of June, 1810, he, a licentiate, accepted calls from the congregations of Waterford and Gravel Run, and was ordained and installed their pastor Oct. 17 following; dissolved pastoral relations with Waterford, April 2d, 1817. He resigned to become itinerant missionary. Was a member of St. Louis Presbytery at its organization, Dec. 18, 1817. Was stated supply Apple Creek Church, Missouri, 1825-28; at Kaskaski; at Pleasant Ridge (Mo.), 1828-34, and for brief terms at churches in Illinois, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Missouri, 1834-'51. Resided at Steel Mills (Ill.), 1851-61. Died May 12, 1861. He was in the Presbyterian ministry 51 years, and was one of the Fathers. Besides being present at the organization of St. Louis Presbytery, Dec. 18, 1817, he was one of the organizers of Centre Presbytery of Illinois, Jan. 9th, 1829, Presbytery of Kaskaskia, March 4th, 1831, and the Synod of Illinois, September, 1831. He preached the opening sermon at each (this includes St. Louis Presbytery). He was very active as a missionary, visiting the destitute organized churches or supplying vacancies.

Jefferson College Historical Coll. says: Born Feb. 7, 1778—son of James and Prudence (Gordon) Mathews—born Franklin County, Pa.

Graduated Jefferson College 1807.

Licensed June 22d, 1809—Presb. of Ohio.

Ordained Oct. 17, 1809, Presbytery of Erie.

Pastor Gravel Run, Pennsylvania, 1809-14; Waterford, 1809-17.

Missionary, Missouri, 1817-27; Ohio, 1827-32; Illinois, —.

Married Nancy Bracken, also Anna Smith. Died Georgetown, Ill., May 12, 1861.

XXXVI. *Hannah⁴ Bracken* (Thomas,³ page 28) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born near Canonsburgh, Pa., Oct. 20, 1785. Married March 28th, 1809, to Joseph Thompson. Died —.

CHILDREN.

- 125. Nancy, b. 11-3-1810; m. XII-10-1833, to Robert Douglas.
- 126. Jane, b. VIII-15-1811; not married.
- 127. Anne, b. IV-15-1813; m. X-12-1842, to David Moore.
- 128. Bracken, b. V———1815; not married.
- 129. Hannah, b. V-1-1823; m. ———, to Isaac Newkirk (second wife).

Hannah Bracken, like the rest of her family, was a Presbyterian. After her marriage, she lived on Pigeon Creek, not far from Canonsburgh, Pa. Her life was uneventful. Joseph Thompson, her husband, is said to have been no relation to John Thompson, who married Sarah Bracken, her sister. His father (Joseph) migrated from Ireland (See History of Washington Co., Pa., page 701). Joseph Thompson was a farmer and a Presbyterian. He was born May 5th, 1700, and died at Bentrysville, Pa., June, 1865.

XXXVII. *John⁴ Bracken* (Thomas,³ page 28) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born near Canonsburgh, Pa., Aug. 17, 1787. Married Sarah Howe. Died —.

He was a farmer and a Presbyterian. He lived for some time on a farm that was a part of the Bracken homestead. He afterward lived in various places, and finally bought a home in Canonsburgh, where he spent his last days. He is spoken of as one never in rugged health. When beyond middle life, he married Sarah Howe, who outlived him. He had no children. He is said to have been an elder at Millers Run Presbyterian Church.

XXXVIII. *Jean*⁴ *Bracken* (Thomas,³ page 28) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born near Canonsburg, Pa., May 21st, 1790. Married to Richard Miller. Died at Canonsburgh, Pa., Nov. 3d, 1857.

CHILDREN.

- 130. Thomas B., b. ———; m. ———.
- 131. Reid, b. II———1818; m.*
- 132. Anne, b. V-24-1819; m. (1) IX-20-1836, to James Stuart; (2)——— to Thomas Graham.
- 133. Mathew B., b. ———; m. Agnes Ferguson.
- 134. David, b. III-11-1825; m. (1)———, 1850, to Nancy Stewart; (2) XII-4-1856, to Nancy Jane Morgan.
- 135. Mary J., b. ———; m. ———, to Rev. R. S. Morton.

Jean Bracken was second wife to Richard Miller. Her life was not an easy one during her married days. Her husband lost his mind and was a great care. It was supposed that he was a wealthy man. He lived near Washington, Pa. Finally he died, and it was found that his property was so involved that there was nothing left for his widow and children. Her brothers, Henry and Thomas Bracken, carried all the worldly goods she had left to a house on the old Bracken homestead, near where they were living, and cared for her and her family until the children were grown. She moved from one of the largest and finest houses in Washington County, Pa.,—a two-story stone house—on a well developed farm, to a log cabin on the border of the woods. Two or three years later, her brother Henry tore down a hewn log building and he and his brother Thomas put up a small, but comfortable, house on Thomas Bracken's farm near the "line" fence for her. The transition from wealth to poverty must have been a crushing

*Reid was married four times. His wives' names were Mary Ferguson, Sarah Foster, Margaret Cowden and Mary Ann Burnside.

blow to her. She actually suffered want, yet none of her friends knew the facts at the time. She, with her family, were regular attendants at the house of God. Like her parents, she was a Presbyterian and brought her family up in that faith. Her children were of good habits and industrious. Her oldest son, Reid, gave her a comfortable home during her declining days.

It is said that some of the sons of Richard Miller, by his first wife, were wild, and that it was through their reckless living that the property was all used up before the father's death. This statement would seem to be borne out by his will. It would also seem, judging from his will, that the children by his first wife were grown and were not pleased by his second marriage.

Will of Richard Miller. Washington, Pa., Vol. IV, page 506. Drawn June 4, 1829; probated April 7, 1830.

"Wife Jean to use the plantation and house, mill and implements, during her natural life, or so long as she remains a widow. If she marry, then one-third of the personal property. To sons, John, Richard, Samuel, and James, and to daughters Margaret Boon and Elizabeth McClelland, to all only what I gave them when they went away and left me. To children by the second wife Jean Bracken, to Reid Bracken, Mathew B., and David D., each two shares; to Ann and to Mary J., each one share."

Executors—Hugh Furgnes and Thomas Bracken.

XXXIX. *Mary⁴ Bracken* (Thomas,³ page 28) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born near Canonsburgh, Pa., Oct. 26, 1793. Married William Van Eman, February, 1819. Died Jan. 11, 1859, and buried at the "Hill church burying-ground," near Canonsburgh.

CHILDREN.

136. Thomas Bracken, b. 1-31-1820; m. (1) x-2-1844, to Mary Fulton; (2) III-2-1858, to Rachel Stewart.

- 137. Rebecca Lawrence, b. x-16-1821; m. vii-16-1851, to John Donaldson.
- 138. Sarah Ann, b. xi-12-1823; m. vi-23-1846, to Rev. Wilson N. Donaldson.
- 139. Jane, b. ———; m. iii-31-1853, to Prof. Simon B. Mercler.
- 140. Hannah, b. ix-30-1825; m. ii-18-1858, to James Grier.
- 141. William, b. i-29-1828.

Mary Bracken's husband, William Van Eman, died when comparatively a young man, leaving his widow with quite a large family of young children. He was a farmer. His property was not all paid for. His wife, Mary, stayed upon the farm; managed it well; paid off the indebtedness and reared her family. Her mother, who had been a widow for 26 years, and had lived all this time with her youngest son, Henry, at the old Bracken homestead, spent the rest of her life with her daughter Mary after the death of the latter's husband.

William Van Eman, farmer, Presbyterian, son of George Van Eman and Rebecca Scott, was born June 15th, 1794, and died April 16th, 1829.

XL. *Henry⁴ Bracken* (Thomas,³ page 28) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born near Canonsburgh, Pa., June 29, 1794. Married to Martha Davis Simcox, April 10, 1816. Died near Canonsburgh, Pa., Feb. 3d, 1850.

CHILDREN.

- 142. Mary Simcox, b. iii-24-1817; m. v-30-1839, to Rev. Alex. Donaldson.
- 143. Julia Ann, b. ix-25-1818; not married.
- 144. Thomas Alonzo, b. viii-14-1820; m. (1) vii—1845, to Ann Warren; (2) ———, Myra Crooke, nee Rice.
- 145. William C., b. xi-4-1823; m. (1) iv-1-1851, to Electa Alvord; (2) iv-3-1859, to Jane D. Pierson.

- 146. Martha D., b. IX-19-1826; m. IX-13-1853. to Rev. J. Irwin Smith.
- 147. Nancy Mathews, b. III-17-1829; m. III-30-1853, to Rev. R. F. Sample.
- 148. Henry Martyn, b. VI-15-1832; m. ———.
- 149. Jane Miller, b. VI-22-1834; m. VI-9-1859, to Rev. John Culbertson Thom.
- 150. John Milton, b. XI-7-1836; died young.
- 151. Harriet Newell, b. VIII-30-1840; not married.

Henry Bracken was the youngest child of Thomas Bracken and Ann Shannon that reached the age of maturity. He was but a boy when his father died. He married quite young and lived on the old farm. (The place was known as Bloomfield.) His mother lived with him until the death of his brother-in-law, William Van Eman, when she went to live as company with her daughter, Mary Van Eman, widow of William. Henry was musically inclined and taught singing school at various country places nearly every night in the week during the winter seasons. He also taught school before his marriage. He was interested in educational matters. He received his college training (course not completed) at Jefferson College. He generally had college students living with him during their stay at Jefferson College. He was active in church work, and was an elder in Chartiers church. When the Canonsburgh Presbyterian church was organized, Oct. 25, 1830, he was chosen as one of its first ruling elders.

His home was one of the typical two-story brick farm houses of Western Pennsylvania. Some time after his death the farm was sold at quite a sacrifice to ——— Craighead, and was again sold later to the state for use in connection with the reform school located at Morganza.

His children seem to have improved their educational opportunities. They all had college or seminary training. Of the sons one was a clergyman (Presbyterian), one a physician and one a lawyer. Four daughters married clergymen (all Presbyterians); two of the daughters never married.

The part of the homestead that fell to this man had been run down by repeated crops. Under his care, it was brought into good cultivation again.

He was among the first to advocate the cause of temperance. In his day the use of whisky at all times among the laborers was common. He, by his own abstinence, demonstrated the fact that stimulants were not necessary. He was one of the leaders in organizing the first temperance society in Washington County. He was among the first to advocate what was known as the common school system of education. This system met with much opposition from many moneyed men during its organization. It was brought before the people at the annual election several times before it was adopted. Its enemies after its adoption tried to make it a failure. Henry Bracken was chosen a member of the first Board of Directors in his township, and continued to hold the office by re-elections until shortly before his death, when failing health compelled him to decline re-election. He was clerk of the Board during the greater part, if not for this entire period. William Bracken, his son, speaks of him as follows:

"Undemonstrative; of a contemplative mind; diffident and retiring, yet possessing firmness, to which was added gentleness of character. He lived a Christian life. He was governed by principle in all his actions.

"As a parent, he was firm, yet gentle. He seldom punished his children, and when such appeared to be necessary, the use of the rod was preceded by a talk which was always felt to be the most severe part of the punishment.

"I do not pretend to say he was free from fault, but in reviewing the past I cannot recall an act of his, public or private, the repetition of which would cause the cheeks of his children to blush."

Thomas Bracken, his son, speaks of him as follows:

"Henry Bracken possessed many excellencies of character. Domestic in taste, he loved the society of his family, and aimed to make home attractive, not only by externally beautifying it, but by providing reading instructive, and at the same time

interesting, adapted to the different ages and stages of mental development. He was a very neat farmer, and gave much attention to the cultivation of choice fruits. Scrupulously honest, he was systematic in his methods, and carefully avoided the contracting of debts. But his Christian character and the uniformity of his Christian life are especially worthy of notice. He was the same Christian gentleman, at home or abroad, and at all times.

"Being well-informed, not only upon religious, but upon secular subjects, he was often called on for advice, but especially were his instructions and prayers sought by those in trouble or upon beds of sickness. He was especially happy in simple family gospel truths, while in prayer he was not only clearly intelligent, but feelingly simple and earnest."

Martha Davis Simcox, wife of Henry Bracken, was born near Pittsburgh, Pa., May 2, 1705, and died at Eldersridge, Pa., May 5, 1877. Her family was of English descent and originally settled in Maryland.

She was an estimable woman, of sterling piety and great energy of character. The last years of her life were spent at the home of her son-in-law, Rev. Alex. Donaldson.

Henry Bracken and Mary, his wife, are buried in the old cemetery of Chartiers church, near Canonsburgh, Pa.

XLIII. *Thomas⁴ Bracken* (James,³ page 33) (Thomas,² page 15), (William,¹ page 7).

Born probably in York County, Pa. (Menallen Township), about 1760. Married to Mary ———. Died at Pittsburg, Pa., about 1816.

CHILDREN.

- 152. Jane, b. ———; m. to Thos. I. Campbell.
- 153. John, b. ———; m. ———.
- 154. Charles, b. ———; m. ———.
- 155. Martha, b. ———; m. to ——— Curry.
- 156. James, b. ———; m. ———.
- 157. Marian (or Mary Ann) b. ———; m. to David Pride.

Thomas was the oldest son of James and Mary D. Bracken. He is mentioned in his father's will, Sept. 11, 1788, as a minor. He was of age Jan. 31, 1783.*

Thomas Bracken lived in Pittsburgh—"an estimable man"—a potter by trade. It is not known whether he followed his trade. His father had provided in his will that his boys should learn trades. Thomas was probably a member of the First Presbyterian church and later of the Second Presbyterian church, Pittsburgh. The latter is said to have been organized in the house of his brother-in-law, James Morrison. His children are mentioned in his mother's will. His own will was drawn March 11, 1816, and reads as follows:

Pittsburgh, Book 2 Wills, p. 84.

"I, Thomas Bracken, being in declining health and not expecting to be long in this world, but perfectly sound in mind and body, do make and ordain this my last will and testament hereby revoking all and every will and testament heretofore made. First, I desire that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid, and what remains of my property, whether real, personal, or mixed, I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Mary Bracken as long as she remains a widow, and in case she marries my desire and will is that all the property be sold and my wife Mary to get one equal half part of the proceeds and the remaining half part to be divided equally between my children and I do hereby constitute and appoint my wife Mary Bracken and my son-in-law David Pride my executors to carry

*York Co., Orphans Court Book E, pg. 241.

Jan. 31, 1783.

Came into court Mary Bracken, widow and relict of James Bracken, late of York County, deceased, and prayed that a guardian may be appointed to take care of the persons and estates of Mary Bracken, aged ten years and upward, Jane Bracken, aged eight years and upward, and John Bracken, aged five years and upward, three of the minor children of the said deceased. The Court approved Mathew Dill of Menallen Township.

York Co. Orphans Court, Book G. p.127.

March 27, 1799.

Came into court Mary Bracken and John McGrew, surviving executors of James Bracken, and produced an account showing 1124 pounds, 4 shillings and 6 pence, subject to distribution.

Approved by the Court.

into effect this my last will and testament. In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 11th day of March, 1816.

THOMAS BRACKEN.

Signed in presence of

James Morrison (his brother in law).

Christian Latshaw."

Little is known of the wife of this man beyond the facts given in her will, which was drawn July 8, 1840, and reads as follows:

Wills, Pittsburg, Book 5, p. 200.

"I Mary Bracken late of the City of Pittsburgh, in the County of Allegheny, being sick and weak of body but of sound and disposing mind memory and understanding do make and publish this my last will and testament. First I will and direct that all my just debts and funeral expenses be paid by executor hereinafter named. Second I will and bequeath to Thomas I. Campbell my son in law 30 shares of stock in the Monongahela Bridge Co., at Pittsburgh, to have and to hold the same upon the following trust, to-wit: to pay over the annual dividends accruing thereon to my granddaughter Mary Jane McKown to her alone for and during the life of the said Mary Jane and after the death of said Mary Jane I will and direct that the dividends thereof shall be paid over to my daughter Jane Campbell wife of said Thomas for her exclusive and benefit of the said Jane if she should survive my said granddaughter and if the said Jane should not survive my said granddaughter then to pay the same to the use and benefit of the children of the said Jane Campbell, and whereas by the will of my late husband Thomas Bracken I am sole devisee and entitled to certain property claimed by the heirs and devisees of David Pride and Marian Pride the present amount or value of which is not yet ascertained. Third I hereby give and devise and bequeath all the rest and residue of my estate in the County of Allegheny and elsewhere real and personal in possession and in action including that claimed by Pride's heirs as afore-

said to my said son in law Thomas I. Campbell his heirs and assigns upon the special trust and confidence nevertheless that he will have hold and possess the same to and for the following purposes, to-wit. After paying all and singular the expenses incident to the said trust and the recovery of the said property hereby ratifying any agreement that the said Thomas I. Campbell may have made relative to the recovery of the same and giving him full power and authority to carry out the suit already instituted and if he thinks fit to settle and compromise the same: To have and to hold the three sixth parts thereof to and for the use and benefit of my daughter Jane Campbell her heirs and assigns. Second to have and to hold convey and pay over to the children of my son John Bracken their heirs and assigns two sixth parts thereof. Third, to have and to hold convey and pay over to my son Charles Bracken his heirs and assigns the one twelfth part thereof and to have and to hold convey and pay over to my daughter Martha Curry her heirs and assigns the one twelfth part thereof. Fifth, to pay to my grandson Joseph McKown the sum of \$500 out of the said trust fund and the said sum to be charged upon and deducted pro rata out of the proportions hereby devised to my daughters Jane and Martha my son Charles and to the children of my son John. Fourth I hereby nominate and appoint the said Thomas I. Campbell sole executor of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 8th day of July, 1840.

MARY BRACKEN.

Witnesses.

Aaron A. Hardy.

Wilson McCandless."

XLIV. *Caleb⁴ Bracken* (James,³ page 33) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born probably in Menallen Township, York Co., Pa., about 1763-5. Married to Rebecca Miller at the York meeting, Aug. 14, 1793. Died near Brownsville, Washington Co., Pa., probably in January, 1806.

CHILDREN.

- 158. Rachel, b. 11-3-1795; m. to Shaidlock Negus.
- 159. James, b. x-14-1796; m. ———.
- 160. Solomon, b. x-14-1796; m. 11-19-1819, to Sarah Rogers.
- 161. Elisha, b. 11-24-1798; m. (1) to Phebe Branson; (2) to Esther Fawcett.
- 162. Sarah, b. xi-3-1799; m. to Isaac Branson.
- 163. Caleb, 1st, b. v-24-1802; died young.
- 164. Caleb 2d, b. x-24-1803; m. to Mary Binns.
- 165. Rebecca, b. 1-27-1806; m. ———.

Caleb Bracken was but a boy when his father died. He is mentioned in his father's will. He seems to have fallen in love with a "Friend" (Quakeress) when a young man, and there seems to have been some inconvenience in his matrimonial plans in consequence, as shown by the following: At York monthly meeting, April 10, 1793, Caleb Bracken produced a certificate from Menallen, dated 3 mo., 11, 1793, stating that he was a frequent attendant of religious meetings, clear of marriage engagements, etc., July 10, 1793, Caleb Bracken and Rebecca Miller appeared at meeting (York) and declared their intention of marriage with each other. A committee of two men

was appointed to look into his clearness, and a committee of two women to inquire into her clearness—to report at next meeting. He is desired to produce Rebecca's father's consent. He informs them that his mother has not consented to his marriage to Rebecca and refuses to do so.* He is desired to produce her reasons at the next meeting.

Aug. 7, 1793. It was reported at the meeting that there was nothing to obstruct the marriage of Caleb and Rebecca Miller. He produced her father's consent and likewise his mother's reasons for not consenting. Several "Friends" were named to view them, who reported the reasons were not sufficient to stop the marriage, she having so far considered it as to submit the matter to "Friends." They both appeared and said they continued their intention of marriage according to the good order used among "Friends." The result was that Caleb Bracken of the Borough and County of York, Pa., and Rebecca Miller, of the same place, were married Aug. 14, 1793, at York meeting. On Oct. 20, 1798, Solomon Miller, of Abington Township, Montgomery County, Pa., sold to Caleb Bracken of the Borough and County of York for love of his son in law and five shillings, a lot on High street (York) 32½ by 230 feet. On March 10th, 1800, Caleb Bracken, of Baltimore Co., Maryland, sold the above lot with brick messuage and tenement to Godfrey Rihm for 200 pounds.

Caleb Bracken moved later to Washington Co., Pa., near Brownsville. His will was drawn Oct. 25, 1805, and probated Jan. 27, 1806. It reads as follows:

Washington, Pa., Wills, Vol. II. p. 69.

"Be it remembered that I Caleb Bracken of Washington Co. and Commonwealth of Penna. being weak of body but of sound and disposing mind and memory, considering the uncertainty of time here and knowing it is appointed for all men once to die have thought proper to make and publish this my last will and testament in manner and form following, that is to

*[NOTE—She was a Presbyterian and probably objected to her son's going out of the church to Friends for his wife.]

say: First, I will that all my just debts and funeral expenses be fully paid and discharged and Secondlv. I will that my beloved wife Rebecca have free and peaceable possession of all my estate both real and personal next after my decease to hold to herself clear of any restriction whatsoever more than that the law directs until my youngest son Caleb shall arrive at twenty-one years of age in order to enable her to clothe sustain educate and bring up my children in the manner that is my desire to be done. But if my son Caleb shall not survive to the age of twenty-one it is my will that my wife hold my estate as aforesaid no longer than my next youngest son (Elisha) shall arrive to the age of twenty-one at which it is my will that my beloved wife select to herself and make choice of one bed and bedding out of my estate, and it is my will that my wife make choice of one horse for herself out of the stock of horses then on the premises and Third it is my will that the whole of my real estate and residue of my personal estate be sold (except one case of drawers) and divided among my wife and children in the following manner that is to say. Fourthly, I give and bequeath to my wife one third part of the residue of my estate together with the before mentioned bed and bedding, horse and case of drawers, and I also give and bequeath to my wife a new saddle and bridle which is to be provided for her by my executors out of my estate and Fifthly I give and bequeath the other two thirds of my estate to my children, viz: Rachel, Solomon, Elisha, Sarah, Caleb and Rebecca to be equally divided among them Sixthly and lastly I do nominate and appoint my beloved wife Rebecca Bracken and my brother in law Robert Miller and my brother John Bracken my lawful executors to this my last will and testament fully and amply authorizing and empowering them to sell and convey my land and other estate and to execute this my last will and testament according to the full intent and meaning as fully in all things as I would be enabled to do were I personally living, and I do hereby revoke all other wills and testaments by me at any time heretofore made or allowed either by word or writing Ratifying and confirming this and no other to be my last will and testa-

ment In witness whereof I have set my hand and seal the 25th day of the 10th month in the year of our lord 1805.

CALEB BRACKEN (Seal)

Signed in the presence of

Henry Smith, Joshua Lintor, Abel
Knight of Washington Co., Pa., who
appeared before the Registrar Isaac Kerr etc."

Jan. 27, 1806.

Registered Jan. 10, 1807.

His widow, Rachel, married again. Her second husband Was Caleb Whitacre, by whom she had one child, Martha, born VIII-30-1810, died April 3, 1870. This daughter married Peter Binford.

XLV. *James⁴ Bracken* (James,³ page 33) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

XLVI. *Mary⁴ Bracken* (James,³ page 33) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Of these two individuals there is no record; nothing to show whether they lived to years of maturity or not.

XLVII. *Jane⁴ Bracken* (James,³ page 33) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born at Menallen Township, York County, Pa., April 20, 1775. Married James Morrison, — 1795. Died at Pittsburgh, Nov. 24, 1817.

CHILDREN.

166. Nancy, b. X-18-1796; m. to Benjamin Kendrick.

167. John B., b. VI-4-1799; m. ———.

168. James, b. III-8-1801; m. III——1828, to Mary S. Dungan.

169. Mary Bracken, b. II-24-1803; m. IX-2-1824, to Wm. Lafferty Robb.

170. Norris, b. V-16-1808; m. ———.

Nothing is known of this Jane Bracken further than that she spent her married life and died in Pittsburgh. She was probably a member of the First, and later of the Second, Presbyterian church of that city.

James Morrison, husband of the above, came to America with his father (James) and family about 1783. He was at this time about 12 years old. He was born in Antrim County, Ireland, on the estate where Castle Dawson stands (or did stand). He entered college in Ireland. At first the Morrisons settled in Philadelphia, and there through a fire they lost many of the things they had brought from Ireland. About 1793 they moved to Pittsburgh. James Morrison, husband of Jane Bracken, owned considerable property in Pittsburgh and was an influential man. He had at one time a hardware store at Pittsburgh. He was one of the first directors of the Bank of Pittsburgh (1817-1827). He and his family were members of the First Presbyterian church of Pittsburgh, but later (1804), the Second Presbyterian church was organized at his home (on Wood street, near Market), and they were charter members of this society. The services of this church were held for a time at James Morrison's home. After a time he lost the greater part of his property through being a bondsman for a merchant by the name of Semple. He then removed from Pittsburgh to Frankfort Springs and again accumulated some property. Later he moved to Frederickstown, Ohio.

Several old heirlooms have come down from the Morrison family to descendants of James Morrison and Jane Bracken. The old family Bible of James Morrison, Sr., is said to be in possession of a James Morrison—grandson of James Morrison and Jane Bracken. Mrs. W. H. Ray, a granddaughter of James Morrison and Jane Bracken, has a reading chair said to have belonged to the parents of Jane Bracken (James and Mary Bracken). The chair is of the old colonial style, with a writing desk on one arm. Under the seat is a drawer for writing material. Washington is said to have used this chair. Mrs. Ray has also the silver shoe buckles that belonged to her grandfather, and sugar tongs that belonged to her grandmother, and marked "J. R. M."

XLVIII. *John⁴ Bracken* (James,³ page 33) (Thomas,² page 15) (William,¹ page 7).

Born at Menallen Township, York County, Pa., about 1779. Died, 1806. This Bracken seems to have been a posthumous son. He is not mentioned in his father's will (page 34), but is mentioned by his mother in her request for a guardian for three of her minor children. (See page 37.)

Descendants of Jane Bracken Morrison state that a brother, of whom she was very fond, died unmarried at her house. Tradition has it that this was her brother Thomas, but Thomas was married. It was probably this brother that was referred to. His will, drawn Aug. 9, 1806, gives us some little knowledge of the man. It reads as follows:

Pittsburgh, Book I, p. 217.

"In the name of God Amen. I John Bracken of the State of Penna., but now of Sweet Springs, Monroe County, Va., being sick and weak of body but of sound mind and memory do make, publish and declare this to be my last will and testament in manner and form as follows: Item 1st. I order and direct my executors hereinafter named to pay all my just debts. Item 2nd. I give and bequeath my bay horse to Annie Bracken, daughter of Thomas. Item 3rd. In fee I give and bequeath the residue of my estate, real and personal, to my kind and benevolent mother Mary Bracken and her heirs forever. My real desire is to make my kind mother easy comfortable and independent in her latter days. Item 4. I do recommend and advise my kind mother Bracken to loan on simple interest to the executors of my Brother Caleb Bracken deceased, \$260, yet subject at all times to her order, being the amount of two debts which my brother Caleb cannot conveniently pay when they shall come due, viz: one debt to Aaron Newport of \$200 and another of \$60 to John Shaw.

Item 5th. I would also advise and recommend to my mother to loan on lawful interest to my brother Thomas Bracken and my brother in law James Morrison, all the residue of money that may arise out of my estate, which as the above shall be at all times to her or her order. Item 6th, and lastly. I constitute and appoint my kind friends Andrew McFarlin, Thomas Bracken and James Morrison my executors of this my last will and testament whereof I have this 9th day of August, 1806, hereunto set my hand and seal and delivered by me John Bracken as my last will and testament and desire the same to be recorded in the county of Allegheny and Commonwealth of Penna., as such.

JOHN BRACKEN (Seal).

In presence of
Thomas Bracken.
John McClure."

He was one of the executors named in his brother Caleb's will (see page 75), but did not live long after Caleb's death. Caleb's will was probated Jan. 27, 1806.

