

Smyrna's proposed
1998 budget **2**

Wessell wins Voice
of Democracy **3**

Smyrna High Air
Force Jr. ROTC
2nd in state **6**

Smyrna Clayton

SUN-TIMES

Vol. 144, No. 25
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Continuing the Smyrna Times • Delaware's oldest consecutively published newspaper, established 1854 December 3, 1997 50c

State historic marker unveiled at home of Col. McLane *Hero in American Revolution lived in Smyrna*



The historic marker unveiling ceremony was held on November 22 in front of the former home of Colonel Allen McLane at 40 W. Mt. Vernon Street in Smyrna, near Market Street. Pictured here at front center, Bill Hires, representing the Sons of Cincinnati, tells the audience about Col. McLane's involvement in the Order of Cincinnati in the Revolutionary War. Hires said McLane is credited by some as being the first member of what would be the equivalent of the CIA. At front left and front right in Revolutionary War period soldier uniforms are Dr. John Gardner and Ralph Nelson. On the porch of the home, from left, are home owners Deborah and Scott Reeves with their son Arthur; Russell McCabe, master of ceremonies and coordinator of the state's historic markers at the Delaware Public Archives; George L. Caley, researcher and genealogist from Smyrna who helped push for funding of the marker and worked with McCabe on writing the information for the marker.



This is the historic marker that now stands in front of the former home of Col. Allen McLane on West Mt. Vernon Street in Smyrna.



Dr. John Munroe, History Professor Emeritus from the University of Delaware, delivered a biography of Col. McLane's life before, during, and after the Revolutionary War. (Photos by Ben Mace)



Edith Edson, the great-great-granddaughter of Col. Allen McLane, told the audience about the family's memories of the Revolutionary War hero that have been handed down from generation to generation.

Memorial Tree lighting Sunday in Clayton

This Friday, December 5 is the last day to place orders for the Memorial Tree lights, sponsored by the Smyrna-Clayton July 4th Association.

People can purchase lights in memory or in honor of a loved one for \$5 for one light, or \$10 for three lights.

To place orders, contact any of the following members of the July 4th Association:

- Ed & Alice Hohman, 653-9951,
- Ray & Harriet Fiske, 653-4489,
- Bruce & Grace

Ennis, 653-7566,
• Bob & Terry Merrill, 653-6809,

• Gary & Jane Youmans, 653-7943.

Proceeds will benefit the Smyrna-Clayton Fourth of July parade and celebration.

The tree lighting ceremony will be held Sunday, December 7 at 6 p.m., at the corner of Main and Bassett streets in Clayton. The public is invited.

Following the ceremony, everyone is invited to the Clayton Fire Hall for hot chocolate and cookies.

Advent services tonight at Peace Lutheran

Spiritually prepare for Christmas by attending Advent services at Peace Lutheran Church, 5048 Wheatley's Pond Road, Route 300, Smyrna.

Each Wednesday, December 3, 10, and 17, services will begin at 7:30 p.m.

On Christmas Eve,

December 24, a service of carols will be held at 7:30 p.m.

The community is invited to attend all services in spiritually preparing for the Christmas holiday.

For more information, contact Peace Lutheran Church at 653-4312.

New Sun-Times deadline:

MONDAY AT 11 A.M.

for NEWS • DISPLAY ADS • CLASSIFIEDS

Delaware

Historians to honor forgotten Revolutionary War hero

Delaware militiaman fought alongside George Washington

By **J.L. MILLER**

Dover Bureau reporter

SMYRNA — A man described by some historians as Delaware's forgotten Revolutionary War hero will be honored with a state historical marker to be dedicated in front of his home in a ceremony

this afternoon.

Representatives of the Delaware Public Archives and the Sons and Daughters of the American Revolution will dedicate the marker at 2 p.m. at the 40 W. Mount Vernon St. home of Col. Allen McLane.

The home, now owned by Scott and Deborah Reeves, belonged to McLane from 1785 until 1828. McLane died a year after selling the house.

According to archives official Russell McCabe, McLane does not have the name recognition of such

Delaware Revolutionary heroes as Caesar Rodney. Nevertheless, McLane played an important role in the success of the Revolution.

Born in Philadelphia in 1746, McLane had moved to Delaware by 1769. He was commissioned an officer in the state militia in 1775, and when the fighting started he raised a company of troops — investing much of his inheritance to cover the cost.

McLane fought alongside George Washington in many of the most important battles of the Revolution, including Trenton and the

siege of Yorktown, Va. He received a captain's commission from Washington and is said to have played a major role in convincing the French to come to the Americans' aid and blockade the Chesapeake Bay in 1781.

McLane also was among the first to suspect the loyalty of the traitorous Benedict Arnold, McCabe said.

McLane later served as speaker of the state House of Representatives, a judge in the Court of Common Pleas and was a delegate at Delaware's historic Constitution

Ratification Convention in 1787. His son Louis was a member of Congress and a U.S. secretary of state.

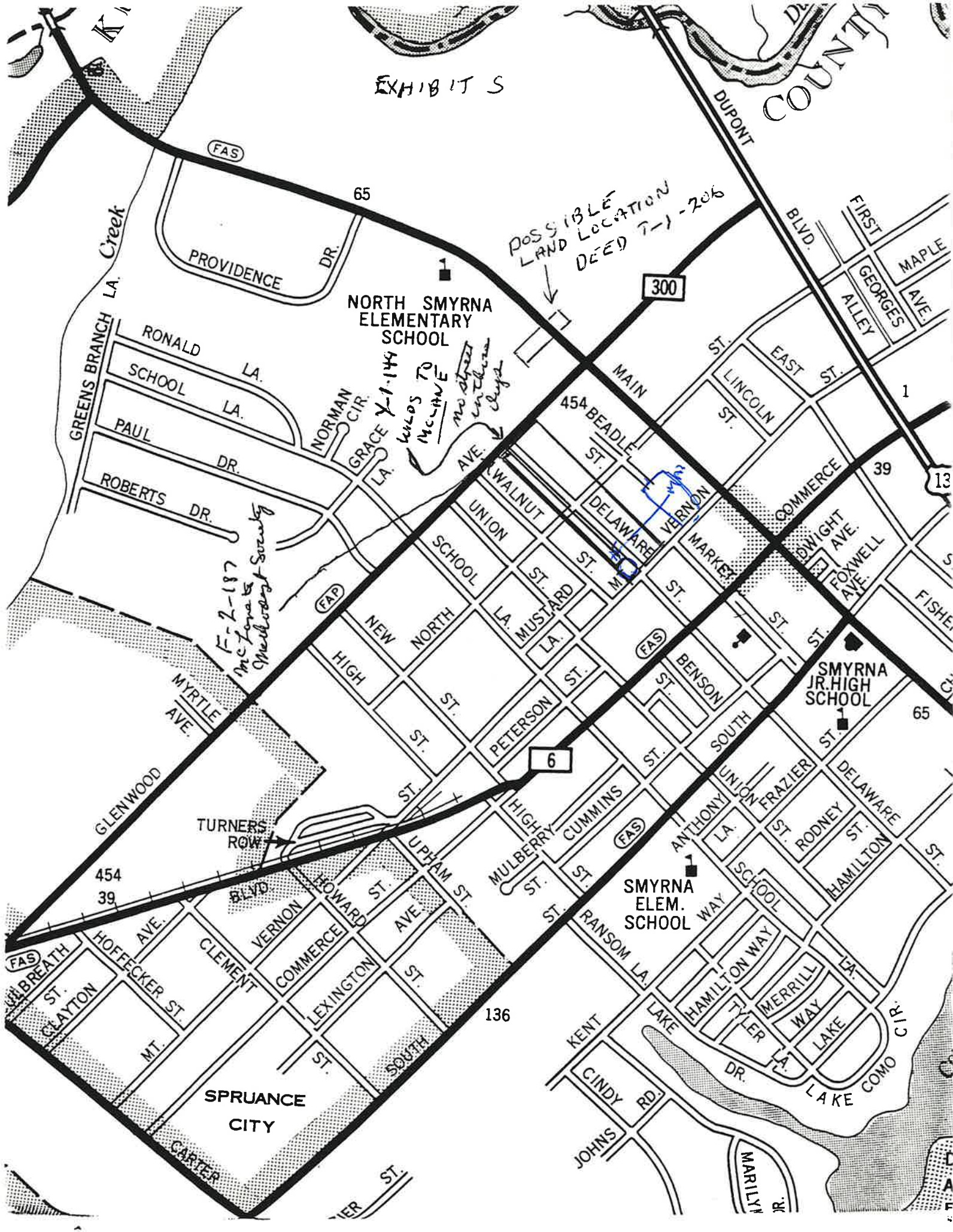
Scott Reeves said he bought the two-story brick home four years ago. While its history was a major selling point, "any [of McLane's records were lost over the years, he said.

The original house, built around 1775, received a major addition in 1840.

McLane is buried in the churchyard at nearby Asbury United Methodist Church.

EXHIBIT S

DUPONT COUNTY



FAS

65

PROVIDENCE DR.

POSSIBLE LAND LOCATION DEED T-1-206

300

NORTH SMYRNA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

GREENS BRANCH LA. Creek

RONALD LA. SCHOOL LA.

GRACE Y-1-144
WINDS TO McLANE
no street within city

1

FIRST MAPLE ALLEY GEORGES AVE.

ROBERTS DR.

F-2-187
Mc Lane & McLawry Society

FAP

NEW NORTH ST.

454

BEADLE ST.

LINCOLN ST.

EAST ST.

13

MYRTLE AVE.

HIGH ST.

UNION ST.

WALNUT ST.

DELAWARE ST.

VERNON ST.

COMMERCE ST.

EDWIGHT AVE.

FOXWELL AVE.

65

GLENWOOD AVE.

TURNERS ROW

LA. MUSTARD ST.

PETERSON ST.

FAS

BENSON ST.

SOUTH ST.

SMYRNA JR. HIGH SCHOOL

6

HIGHWAY 136

FAS

ANTHONY ST.

UNION ST.

FRAZIER ST.

RODNEY ST.

DELAWARE ST.

SMYRNA ELEM. SCHOOL

454

39

BLVD

HOWARD ST.

UPHAM ST.

MULBERRY ST.

CUMMINS ST.

RANSOM LA.

SCHOOL

ANTHONY ST.

UNION ST.

FRAZIER ST.

RODNEY ST.

DELAWARE ST.

WILBREATH ST.

CLAYTON ST.

HOFFECKER ST.

CLEMENT ST.

VERNON ST.

COMMERCE ST.

LEXINGTON ST.

SOUTH ST.

LAKE

HAMILTON WAY

TYLER WAY

MERRILL WAY

LAKE

LAKE

LAKE

SPRUANCE CITY

GARTER

ST.

KENT CINDY RD

JOHNS

MARILYN JR.

LAKE COMO

DEDICATION & UNVEILING OF ALLEN McLANE HISTORIC MARKER
40 West Mt. Vernon Street, Smyrna, Delaware
Saturday, November 22, 1997 2 p.m.

Mr. C. RUSSELL McCabe, DPA--Master of Ceremonies

GUEST LIST & INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. and Mrs. Scott Reeves--	Owners of the house
Mr. William Hires	Rep. Sons of Cincinnati
Mr. William Neal	President General, SAR
Mrs. Patricia Marshall	Regent, Delaware DAR
Mr. Steve Alexander	Kent County President, SAR
Mr. Brooks Keen	President, Duck Creek Historical Society
Mr. Robert Newnam	Mayor, Town of Smyrna
Dr. John A. Munroe	History Professor Emeritus, U. of D. and author of <u>LOUIS McLANE, FEDERALIST & JACKSONIAN</u>
Mr. Bruce C. Ennis	Representative, Delaware 28th District
Mrs. James T. Vaughn	Senator, Delaware 11th District Both sponsored legislation for the funding of the Marker Senator Vaughn, unable to attend--sends regrets and greetings
Mrs. Robert K. Edith" Edson, Annapolis, Maryland	Third great-granddaughter of Col. Allen McLane

WHATEVER

UNVEILING

Mr. Scott Reeves, Rep. Ennis, Mrs. Edson, George L. Caley

Photos, Invitation to tour the house

RUSSELL--Somewhere you could mention the spouses of the attendees--if they came. Those expected Mrs. Brooks Keen, Mrs. George L. Caley, Mrs. John A. Munroe, Mrs. Robert Newnam, Mrs. Bruce C. Ennis, Mrs. Steve Alexander and of course Mr. Robert Edson.

AMERICAN HERITAGE

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COVERS: In 1833 Charles Bodmer, a young Swiss artist, painted the Minnetaree chieftain, Pehriska-Ruhpa, leading the fearsome and frenzied Dog Dance, a ceremony of war so named because the climax involved the eating of raw meat like wild dogs. This lithograph is reproduced through the courtesy of the Rare Book Room, The New York Public Library. *On the back cover:* the drummer boy is from a panel that graced the first private railroad car of an American President, that of Abraham Lincoln. It is in the collection of the Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska.

FRONTISPIECE: Towering over the roofs of Paris, the Statue of Liberty is shown nearing completion in the courtyard of sculptor Frederic Auguste Bartholdi. The next year she came to America as a gift of the French people.

Allan McLane

UNKNOWN HERO OF THE REVOLUTION

Dashing fighter, daring scout, this romantic trooper

played a large part in Washington's triumph at Yorktown

By FRED J. COOK

Captain Allan McLane rode out before dawn of June 16, 1778, to keep a dangerous rendezvous. With his cavalry he had been probing the British perimeter around Philadelphia, trying to learn for General Washington at Valley Forge whether the enemy was about to evacuate the city. The previous day a young girl had slipped through the British lines and had told McLane that her father would bring him "important intelligence" between daybreak and sunrise on the sixteenth. They were to meet at the "Horse House" near the Rising Sun Tavern in the countryside north of Germantown.

McLane, whose daring sorties and hairbreadth escapes had made him one of the most romantic figures in the Continental Army, rode to the appointment fully aware that it might be a carefully baited British trap. And so he took precautions. He ordered his entire troop to follow at a distance and to conceal them-

selves behind the tavern. He placed two vedettes on the lane leading past the tavern between the Old York and Frankfort roads, with orders to fire their pistols at the first sign of the enemy. Then he rode on alone.

A furtive-acting man was waiting just inside the yard gate. McLane had hardly begun talking to him when a patrol of thirteen British light horse rode up quietly from the south, circled a small hill that concealed their movements, and then came forward at full gallop.

McLane's informant promptly fled, but the Captain, leaping to horse, charged directly at the gate toward which the British were riding. The leading British trooper had dismounted and was opening the gate when McLane's horse reared above him and McLane, leaning down, fired his pistol into the man's startled face.

"At the instant the Capt. fired his pistol," McLane



James Peale's painting Revolutionary Subject commemorates one of McLane's exploits. Ambushed near Philadelphia in the spring of 1778, McLane shot one pursuing dragoon, clubbed another with his pistol, and escaped. The painting shows the climactic moment of the fight.

later wrote, speaking of himself in the third person as was his wont, "the [American] horsemen appeared in the Enemy's rear, fired and advanced upon them. They became alarmed and ran in Grate Confusion down the roade and through the fields toward the British picket near the Globe Mill. They reported (a lie, British-like) they had been ambuscaded by a body of horse and infantry and cut their way through them without a loss but one dragoon wounded slightly."

McLane did not say how he could possibly know what story the British dragoons told their superiors. But it was typical of the man that there was no slightest doubt in his mind they had told "a lie, British-like."

Ever a good hater, McLane was an emotional patriot. This fervor was both his weakness and his strength. It made him a stormy petrel whom superiors

could not always placate, but the same quality, in the field, resulted in such dash and daring that Washington once remarked to a friend: "I would not do without him in the light corps—no, not for a thousand pounds."

McLane was born in Philadelphia on August 8, 1746. His parents were persons of some affluence, for McLane visited Europe when he was 21, and his father, when he died in 1775, left McLane more than \$15,000 worth of property in Philadelphia.

When he was 23, McLane married Rebecca Wells, the daughter of the sheriff of Kent County, Delaware. He settled in Delaware, got into one of the first skirmishes of the war against Lord Dunmore in Virginia and then joined a Delaware regiment of volunteers. In the disaster on Long Island, he first proved his quality, reversing the trend of the day in his immediate sector by cutting off a British lieutenant and eighteen

privates and slashing his way out with his prisoners.

He fought at White Plains and Trenton and Princeton. On the latter field he was so conspicuous he attracted Washington's attention and promptly was promoted to captain in a commission dated January 13, 1777. Assigned at first to Colonel John Patton's regiment of foot, he was soon detached and sent to Delaware to raise a company. He returned with 94 men enlisted at his own expense, "every shilling of the bounty money being drawn from his own pocket."

With a command of his own, McLane was ready to gallop into history. He was in the forefront of the fighting at Brandywine; he drove in the first British pickets in Washington's abortive counterattack at Germantown. Then, with the capital, Philadelphia, in the hands of the enemy, he became, in the harsh winter of Valley Forge, the eyes and ears and virtually the sole commissariat of Washington's starving army.

He was ordered on November 7, 1777, to take "the post most advantageous for watching the enemy, sending out the necessary parties and patriots for that end

You are to prevent as far as possible all intercourse between Philadelphia and the country, suffering none to go to the city without papers given by the authority of the commander-in-chief."

Never were orders more expeditiously executed. Within a month, by a romantic episode in espionage, McLane foiled British plans to surprise Washington, encamped in a threatening position at Whitemarsh, north of Philadelphia.

On Second Street in Philadelphia, directly opposite the headquarters of Sir William Howe, the British commander, there lived a Quaker couple, William and Lydia Darragh. Howe's adjutant general had his quarters there; on December 2, 1777, he advised Lydia to send all her family to bed early.

The Quaker matron complied, but her curiosity had been aroused. And so when Howe's officers gathered, she slipped off her shoes, tiptoed to the door of their room, and listened at the keyhole long enough to learn that they were discussing plans for a surprise attack on Washington at Whitemarsh.

The next morning, determined to get word to the patriots, Lydia crossed the street to Howe's headquarters and requested a pass to go to a miller at Frankfort to obtain flour. With the pass, she went through the British lines, left her bag to be filled at the mill, and then hurried northward, met McLane and delivered her warning.

Lydia then returned to the mill, paid for her bag of flour, and re-entered the city, unsuspected. McLane alerted Washington and intensified his patrols. At midnight on December 4, Howe moved to the attack,

with virtually his entire army strung out in two long columns on the Manatawny and Skippack roads. McLane, with a hundred hard-riding horsemen, charged upon the head of the second column as it reached Three Mile Run. The shock of the surprise attack threw the British into confusion. The advance was halted, the line dressed for battle. When the British again probed slowly forward, McLane faded away into the night, but time and again he returned to stab at their front and flank.

When Howe reached Chestnut Hill, he found the American army drawn up for battle three miles away. For two days the armies sat looking at each other. Then, on December 7, Howe tried his favorite tactic, a night pincer movement against the American right and left flanks.

Both thrusts scored initial successes. On the left, a fierce attack directed by Howe himself dislodged a regiment of Pennsylvania militia and another of Continentals. General Joseph Reed, stationed as an observer here, had his horse shot from under him at the first fire and was pinned to the ground. British infantry rushed forward to bayonet him where he lay when out of the night came the thunder of hoofs, and Allan McLane swirled upon the scene with his hard-riding troopers, sabering British right and left and rescuing the General.

This action terminated the futile battle of Whitemarsh. Howe retired for a gay winter of drinking and wenching in Philadelphia, while Washington drew back to Valley Forge. From this camp that became a symbol of suffering and fortitude, a friend wrote McLane on February 15, 1778: "I have often inquired amongst your company how they were treated, and they have no complaints, but that of being naked, which must be endured as it is a general Calamity."

To clothe his men, McLane had his wife Rebecca rip up her white linen tablecloths for breeches. Clad thus in white linen, beaver hats, and rough hunting shirts, lacking greatcoats and boots, McLane's tattered demalion troopers scoured the countryside, swooping down on British foraging parties and diverting the supplies they had gathered to the impoverished camp at Valley Forge. In one far-ranging expedition into Delaware and the Eastern Shore of Maryland, McLane rounded up, as he later wrote, "1500 fat hogs, 500 head of cattle, 200 head of Horses—for the army at Valley Forge."

With spring, the question of Howe's next move became paramount, and McLane prowled incessantly through the countryside just beyond the British lines. He had many spies in the city, as Valley Forge correspondence attests, and he was instrumental in foiling the last pet scheme of the departing Howe.

The British commander had just been crawling into bed with the dawn of May 19 when aides brought him word that the Marquis de Lafayette, with 2,200 Continentals, was sitting out in an exposed position at Barren Hill, only eleven miles from Philadelphia, with a force too small for battle, too large for scouting. Howe vowed he would have "the boy," as he called Lafayette, as a prisoner within 48 hours.

Again, as at Whitemarsh, Howe moved out with more than 7,000 troops, virtually his entire army. His force left Philadelphia at 10:30 on the night of May 19, but McLane, with his cavalry raiders and Oneida Indian allies, was on patrol. At Three Mile Run, he felt out the massive movement, sensed its objective, and rode off at a breakneck pace to warn Lafayette.

He reached Lafayette just at daybreak. Already, so swiftly had the British moved, Lafayette seemingly was cut off from his only escape route, Matson's Ford over the Schuylkill River. The head of one British column was close to the ford when Lafayette, making a brave show of attacking, threw forward a menacing contingent. The British halted and formed for battle. While they did, Lafayette peeled off his companies one by one and sent them down the steep slope of the hill behind him to a hidden road along the river. Along this they raced to the ford unperceived by the British, and when the jaws of the trap closed, British troops came face to face with each other in an empty camp. Lafayette had made his escape.

Nothing could keep McLane from the forward lines. The British obviously were preparing to abandon Philadelphia, and McLane could hardly wait for them to leave. He was scouting with his light horse across the Schuylkill at daybreak June 18 when George Roberts, one of his contacts, crossed by the Middle Ferry with the information the British were leaving. With his glasses, as day brightened, McLane could see the last of Clinton's army being ferried across the Delaware to the Jersey shore.

Having sent Roberts on to Valley Forge, McLane led his troopers into the city. They galloped with drawn swords along Second Street, and captured two groups of British laggards, all without the loss of a man. Then McLane scribbled a hasty note to Washington. Washington appended to a letter he was writ-

ing to the president of Congress this hurried post-script: "A letter from Captain McLane, dated in Philadelphia, this minute came to hand confirming the evacuation."

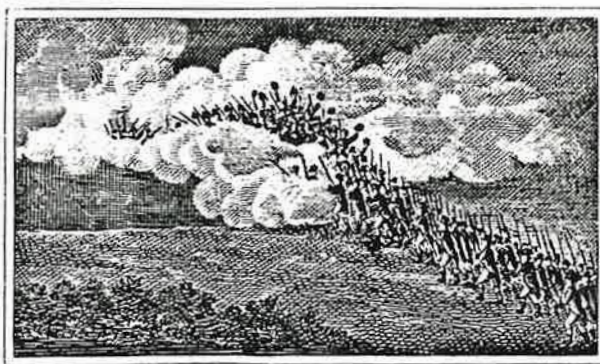
Command in the recaptured American capital had been entrusted to Benedict Arnold, the wounded hero of Saratoga. The precise nature of McLane's relations with Arnold is not clear, but one thing is certain: McLane became one of the very first to suspect Arnold's loyalty.

The venality of Arnold's nature became apparent in shameless profiteering from the sale of goods left behind by British occupation forces. This aroused the ire of many Philadelphians—and especially of McLane. In a letter to Washington, he complained of Arnold's activities and hinted at darker suspicions. Washington's reply was prompt and crushing. He refused to entertain doubts about the loyalty of one of his greatest generals, and his stinging rebuke silenced McLane.

McLane gave vent to his secret feelings in scribbled notations. One of these notes indicates that Arnold recognized how dangerous McLane might be to him and would have taken steps to crush the meddlesome cavalryman if Washington himself hadn't intervened. McLane wrote: "After Arnold married Miss Shippen [on April 8, 1779] he opened a correspondence with the Enemy in New York and McLane was suspected for having the Clue-Genl Washington protected him or he would have been abused for having done his duty."

While Arnold was left free to plot, events moved swiftly for McLane. He was attached to the command of Major Henry (Light-Horse Harry) Lee, and early summer of 1779 found him scouting Stony Point, a rocky promontory in the Hudson that the British had seized and were fortifying heavily. On June 28, Washington wrote General Anthony (Mad Anthony) Wayne suggesting that he try to get a "trustworthy and intelligent" man into the British works to spy out their strength. Allan McLane was picked for the mission.

He decided to go in openly under a flag of truce, but disguised as quite another type of man than he actually was. In the neighboring countryside, he located a Mrs. Smith who wished to visit her sons in the British



McLane played a large part in the storming of Stony Point, shown in this old sketch.

Allan McLane

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 77

garrison. Dressing himself in rough backwoods attire—frayed hunting shirt and leggings, his powder horn and rifle accoutrements plainly visible—McLane escorted Mrs. Smith into the British lines and then lounged about waiting for her, impersonating a bumpkin commanding militia.

A young British officer decided he would have some fun with this hick soldier. The story, complete with dialogue, was obtained by Alexander Garden, a fellow officer in Lee's legion, from McLane himself.

"Well, Captain," the British officer asked, "what do you think of our fortress? Is it strong enough to keep Mister Washington out?"

"I know nothing of these matters," McLane protested. "I am but a woodsman and can only use my rifle, but I guess the General—General, mind you, not Mister—would be likely to think a bit before he would run his head against such works as these. . . . Trust me, we are not such dolts as to attempt impossibilities."

Leaving the British officer puffed up with superiority, McLane quitted the fort and reported that it wasn't half as formidable as it looked. His keen eyes had noted that entrenchments connecting the batteries hadn't been completed, and he had worked out an approach route by which an attacking force might come quite close without being observed. McLane's report brought Washington to the scene for a personal reconnaissance, protected by the cavalry of McLane and Lee. The attack was set for the night of July 15-16, 1779, and McLane and his raiders lay close in the underbrush, snuggled almost up to the unsuspecting British sentries, as Mad Anthony Wayne's troops stormed the fort with the bayonet. In 25 minutes they had carried the Gibraltar of the Hudson.

Stony Point was still the talk of the hour when McLane and Lee teamed up in an almost identical venture against Paulus Hook, or Powles Hook as it was sometimes called, a fortified neck of land in what is now Jersey City. McLane's troop, forever on the move, ranged the entire west bank of the Hudson from Stony Point to Paulus Hook, and finally, from a deserter, McLane obtained precise information about the plan of the fort and the strength of the garrison. Lee badgered Washington and finally obtained permission to storm it.

The attack was made early on the morning of August 19, 1779. Part of Lee's force became lost and never did show up, but the rest went in with the bayonet, carried the fort in a few minutes, and made off with 158 prisoners. Lee himself commanded on the left,

where McLane's dismounted troopers, led by their captain, were the first to crash the defenses.

Paulus Hook made a national hero of Lee, just as Stony Point had of Mad Anthony Wayne. The Continental Congress showered decorations and rewards on Light-Horse Harry, but in one of those whimsies that defy the rationalization of even a politician, it refused to pass a resolution praising McLane and the other officers who had been so prominent in the assault.

This may have been one of the factors in the rift that now developed between McLane and Lee. Their personalities, in any event, seemed fated eventually to clash. Years later, reading Lee's account in his memoirs of how he had paced the Hudson's banks on a cold wintry night waiting for a spy's report from New York, McLane remarked sarcastically in his journal that Lee never kept the field in such weather; he preferred playing whist.

Eventually Lee, commanding his augmented legion and on his way to fight in South Carolina, got McLane out of his sight by assigning him the menial task of purchasing supplies in Maryland. McLane appealed to Washington, with a result which he recorded in a triumphant note on a letter dated January 20, 1781. "McLane got out of Major Lee's trap by prevailing on Washington to assign him to Baron Steuben's command," McLane wrote.

Steuben was then in Virginia trying to cope with an invasion the British had launched from the sea under Benedict Arnold in the first days of January. McLane's assignment to Steuben's command led directly to his most important and most forgotten service.

During winter and early spring, the situation in Virginia built to a crisis. The British reinforced Arnold's original raiders, and up from the south came Lord Cornwallis, who had lost the Carolinas by decimating his army to win the Pyrrhic victory of Guilford Court House. Steuben and Lafayette, who had been sent to Virginia by Washington, could not hope to do battle with such an army, but at the same time the British faced a potential danger; they were isolated in the middle of the Atlantic seaboard, cut off from all support except by sea. Strategically, this was the situation that was to make Yorktown possible.

In the north, Washington appeared preoccupied with plans for an attack on New York, hoping to end the war at one stroke. His apparent absorption in this project deceived the British and apparently has deceived most historians since. Lossing says that the Comte de Grasse, commanding a powerful French fleet, had notified Washington he intended to campaign in the West Indies but later changed his mind and decided to sail for the Chesapeake.

An intriguing mystery seems obvious here. Why would De Grasse in the West Indies, intending to attack the British there, suddenly change all his plans? And if he were coming to the American coast, wouldn't logic dictate that he sail for Newport, where a French army and fleet were already stationed? Why would he, out of the blue as it were, decide on the Chesapeake? Obviously, it would seem that he must have been stimulated in some unexplained fashion to arrive at this all-important decision.

The answer to the riddle is to be found in the McLane papers, which reveal that the seed of decision was planted by Allan McLane, acting as special courier from Washington. This is McLane's abbreviated account of his dramatic mission: "In the interval between the appearance of Cornwallis in Virginia and the month of June, 1781, McLane embarked in the ship *Congress*, of Philadelphia, Capt. Geddis, as Capt. of Marines. . . . Visited Cape Francois in July, was examined by Count de Grasse in Council of War on board *Ville de Paris*, gave it as his decided opinion that Count de Grasse could make it easy for Genl. Washington to reduce the British in the South if he proceeded with his fleet and Army to the Chesapeake."

This secret mission which became lost in history does not rest on McLane's unsupported word. In 1820, when he was contemplating writing his memoirs, McLane obtained a corroborating affidavit from Richard O'Brien, a lieutenant on the *Congress*. In this, O'Brien says he personally commanded the ship's boat that rowed McLane to the council of war, and he adds:

"I was on the quarter deck of the *Ville de Paris* and after considerable time had elapsed one of the French officers—the Captain of a 74, one of the Council of War—informed me that, in consequence of the dispatches delivered to the Council of War by Col. Allan McLane, his clear and explicit statements and rational views of the probable consequences, it was then determined to abandon the Expedition against the West India Islands and to sail with all Expedition for the Coast of the United States."

Having obtained De Grasse's pledge to sail for the Chesapeake, McLane returned to the *Congress* for the voyage home, and before he landed, such was the destiny of the man, he became embroiled in one of the fiercest sea battles of the Revolution. McLane underplays the event in one laconic sentence in his journal in which he notes that the *Congress* fell in with the British sloop of war *Savage* off Charleston Bar—and took her.

Actually, the action was a desperate one, raging from 10:30 A.M. to 2:45 P.M. before the *Savage* surrendered. It was one of the rare instances in which a pri-

vateer stood up successfully to a ship of the Royal Navy. The *Congress* was more powerful, mounting 24 guns to the *Savage's* 16, but what impressed the British skipper even more than the weight of her great guns was the deadliness of her small arms fire. McLane, as a captain of marines, was directing this, and even when the ships drifted into positions where the carriage guns would not bear, "musquetry and pistols still did execution," the British captain later reported. Finally, with the *Savage's* rigging cut to pieces, her quarter-deck and fore-castle swept clear of men, the British skipper struck his colors.

Delayed by this battle and the *Congress'* privateering cruise, McLane didn't get back to the war on land until September, when he found Washington's troops moving south for the encirclement at Yorktown. He promptly joined them and fought until Cornwallis capitulated. Shortly afterwards, McLane retired from the army, noting in his journal that he had "Received nothing but abuses and Insults from the people then in power as a reward for his sacrifices and faithful services from 1775."

War's end found McLane with his once comfortable patrimony swallowed up by debts he had incurred in the patriot cause. He engaged in a trading venture with Robert Morris on the Delaware and in 1797 became collector for the port of Wilmington, a post he retained until his death on May 29, 1829. During his long and ever-active life, he held many public positions, and in the War of 1812 he had command of the defenses of Wilmington. In 1814, when the British captured Washington, McLane was on the scene as an observer. Then 68 and unequal to such feats as he had performed in the winter of Valley Forge, his spirit was still as fierce, as unconquerable—and as critical—as ever. In a sulfurous memorandum the old war horse passed this judgment on the capital's defenders:

"All was confusion—nothing like spirit—nothing like subordination—universal complaint for want of food, the Militia going off in every direction to seek it. . . . I most religiously believe, that if I had been at the head of 300 men, such as I led in the attack on Paulus Hook . . . I should have defeated Genl Ross, when he pressed Genl Winder over the Eastern Branch."

The words of an old fighter to whom the past is even more glorious in recollection than it was in deed? One cannot know, but can only be sure that, to Allan McLane, all things were possible.

Fred J. Cook is a staff writer for the New York World Telegram and Sun. He has contributed to a number of magazines, and with Senator Robert C. Hendrickson is co-author of the recent book, Youth in Danger.

James Sykes protry:



See copy Sect. Simon W. Wilson Record?

This Indenture made the Twenty third day
 of December in the year of our Lord One thousand seven hundred and eighty
 five Between Thomas Wilds of the Town of Dover in Kent County on Delaware
 a Junr and painter and Elizabeth his wife of the one part, and Allen M Lane
 of Dutch Creek bridge roads Merchant of the other part Witnesseth that the said
 Thomas Wilds and Elizabeth his wife for and in consideration of the sum of
 Four hundred pounds lawfull money to them paid by the said Allen M Lane
 before shaling and Delivery of these presents the Receipt whereof the said
 Thomas Wilds and Elizabeth his wife do hereby acknowledge and themselves
 thereby fully satisfied contented and paid and DO thereof hereby acquit
 and discharge the said Allen M Lane his heirs Executors & Administrators
 have granted bargained and sold Alien and Released enffice and con:
 firmed and confirmed And by these presents DO grant bargain sell alien enffice
 and confirm unto the said Allen M Lane his heirs and assigns forever
 all that certain Lot or parcel of Land, being part of a Tract of Land
 which a certain William Ball and Sam^r Ball purchased of a certain James
 [unclear] afterwards sold and conveyed by the said William Ball & Samuel
 Ball to the said Thomas Wilds as by their deed for the same bearing date
 the twenty fifth day of July in the year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred
 and nine and Recorded in the Roll office at Dover in the County afo^r
 [unclear] being therein had may more fully appear, Situate and lying
 in the County of Kent in the Town of Dover by the name of Ball street near the said
 [unclear] in Kent County afo^r Beginning at the South West corner of a
 [unclear] belonging to a certain Daniel Gordon dec^d lying on the North
 side of the said Ball street from thence running with the said street
 [unclear] and one half a degree West Eleven perches and

A half a perch to a corner post standing on the side of the
 from thence North forty six degrees West forty two perches and a fifty fifth
 depth part of a perch to a corner post from thence North forty six degrees a half
 East twelve perches and a half a perch to a corner post being a corner of a certain
 William Coughtons Land from thence binding with the said William Coughtons
 Land South forty six degrees East Twenty eight perches and three tenths of a perch
 to a corner post of said William Coughtons Land from thence South forty six
 degrees and one half of a degree West one perch to a corner post of the ass^d David
 Lott thence binding with the said David Gardons Lott South forty six degrees East
 fourteen perches and one fourth of a perch to the ass^d first mentioned corner or place
 of Beginning containing and laid out for three acres & thirty seven perches
 of Land to the same more or less with the appurtenances therunto belonging
 excepting sixty feet in front and two hundred feet in Depth being part of the
 said Lott above Described and adjoining Kennedys & Dunahs Lott which a
 certain Charles Emory sold to a certain Joseph Harrison dec^d and also the Perm
 ision and Reversions Remainder and Remainders Rents issues and profits thereof
 and every part thereof and all the Estate right title Interest Claim & Demand
 whatsoever of them the said Thomas Wilder and Elizabeth his wife of in &
 to the said Lott of Land and premises and every part and parcel thereof
 (except as before is excepted) To have and to hold the said Lott of Land
 and premises with the appurtenances (except as is before excepted) unto the said
 Allen McLane his heirs and assigns to the only proper use and behoof of the
 said Allen McLane his heirs and assigns forever and the said Thomas Wilder
 Elizabeth his wife for themselves their heirs Executors & Administrators DO
 hereby Covenant & agree to and with the said Allen McLane his heirs Executors
 and Administrators that they the said Thomas Wilder Elizabeth his wife the
 said Lott of Land & premises with the appurtenances & every part thereof (except
 as before is excepted) against them and their heirs and against any other person
 or persons claiming by from or under them or either of them shall and will
 warrant and forever defend by these presents **In witness** whereof
 the said Thomas Wilder & Elizabeth his wife have hereunto set their hands
 and Seals the day and year first above written

Sealed & Delivered
 in presence of
 Tho^s Collins
 James Newcom

Thomas Wilder
 Elizabeth Wilder

Copied for reference only from the original
in the custody of The Division of Historical
and Cultural Affairs, Department of State,
Hall of Records, Dover, Delaware.
Permission for reproduction must be obtained.

Volume Y-1

Page

149, 150

December 23, 1785

Reel # 785-

Thomas Woods of Lewer to
Allen Mc June of Oct 2 R^{ca}

91 See also all the list to Thomas Mather

Ochs and others made the 20th day of March in the year of our Lord
 one thousand eight hundred and thirty eight between the said
 Henry of the borough of Warrington in the County of Mercaete and
 State of Delaware of the one part and Thomas Mather of the County of
 Kent County and State of New York of the other part. Whereby that
 the said Henry Mather doth give and in consideration of the sum of
 one thousand five hundred dollars lawful money of the United
 States of America paid to him by the said Thomas Mather before
 the making and delivery of these presents the receipt whereof
 and himself have of satisfaction in the said Henry Mather doth
 hereby acknowledge hath given granted bargained sold conveyed
 released and confirmed and by these presents doth give grant
 bargain sell release convey and confirm unto the said
 Thomas Mather his heirs and assigns forever, All that certain
 tract or parcel of land containing two acres forty five
 perches and thirty five hundredths of a perch be the same
 more or less, situate and lying in the town of Smyrna upon
 the banks adjoining lands late of General Mather of New York
 the heirs of said Henry Mather deceased Isaac Davis Esq. Esq.
 James Jones and the Methodist Episcopal Church and others
 and bounded as follows to wit - Beginning at a corner
 of the lot on the Northwesterly side of State Street between
 a corner for land now in possession of the heirs of David
 Miller dec'd and from thence bearing with the said street
 westerly about forty six degrees forty five minutes west
 seven perches and six hundredths of a perch to a corner
 of Church Lane at the junction of said Lane with Base
 Street thence bearing with the said Lane north forty six
 degrees west between perches and forty two hundredths of
 a perch to a stake in the line of the said Lane thence
 north across said Lane about forty four degrees west
 seven hundredths of a perch to a stake a corner for the Methodist
 Church lot thence bearing with the said lot north forty
 six degrees west twenty six perches and six tenths of a
 perch to a stake a corner for the said Methodist Church
 lot and in the line of land of Isaac Davis Esq. thence
 bearing with the land of said Davis forty six and one
 half degrees East nine perches and four tenths of a perch
 to a stone a corner for land of said Davis John Cummins
 Esq. and said James Jones thence bearing with land of
 the said Davis about forty six degrees East twenty eight
 perches and six tenths of a perch to a stake a corner for
 land of the said Jones and in the line of land of the heirs
 of David Miller dec'd thence bearing with land of the
 said Miller Davis about forty six degrees west one perch
 to a proper stump a corner for the heirs of said Miller
 thence bearing with land of said Miller four perches
 forty six degrees East seven perches and four tenths of a
 perch to the place of beginning, and all the windings

fixtures and improvements woods Meadows waters water courses
ways easements tenements privileges and appurtenances to
the same belonging or in any wise appertaining and the
reversion reversionous remainder remainders rents issues
and profits thereof and all the Estate title claim and
possibility of claim or right of him the said Allen McLane
to in and out of the same; To Have and To Hold all
the aforesaid lands and premises with the appurtenances
to him the said Thomas Mlaberry his heirs and assigns
forever And the said Allen McLane for himself his
heirs executors and administrators doth grant and covenant
to and with the said Thomas Mlaberry his heirs and assigns
that he the said Allen McLane his heirs executors and
administrators the aforesaid lands and premises with the appurtenances to him the said Thomas Mlaberry his heirs and assigns against himself the said Allen McLane his heirs executors and administrators and all persons claiming or to claim from through by or under him the said Allen McLane or his heirs or any other person whomsoever shall and will warrant and forever defend - In witness whereof the said Allen McLane hath hereunto set his hand and affixed his seal the day and year herein first written.

In witness
Signed sealed and
delivered in the presence of
Thos. M. Dowell
Fred^d. Leonard

A McLane



Rec^d: on the day of the date of the aforesaid Indenture
from Thomas Mlaberry grantee therein named one
thousand six hundred dollars the Consideration
therein expressed

A McLane

Witness
Thos. M. Dowell
State of Delaware ss.

Be it Remembered that on this twentieth day of
March in the year of our Lord eighteen hundred & twenty eight
personally appeared before us the subscribers two of the Justices
of the peace in and for New Castle County Allen McLane Esq.
the grantor named in the within Indenture and acknowledged
the same to be his act and deed and desired it might be
Recorded as such. In witness whereof we have hereunto
set our hands the day and year aforesaid.

Thos. M. Dowell
Fred^d. Leonard

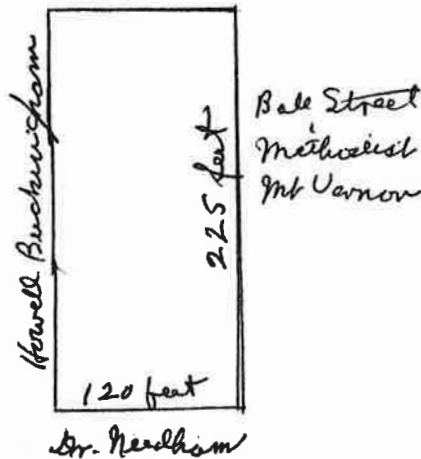
A true Copy recorded and compared with the original this
8th day of January at D. 1829 -

Attest John W. Manly Rec^d.

①

Partial Chain of Title for
 Misnamed Allen Mc Lane House
 South side of Mt Vernon Street

- March 14, 1768 S-1-87 James Spear of D.C.H. to Samuel Ball, Merchant of Philadelphia 15 acres
- March 7, 1771 T-1-77 Samuel Ball and wife Elizabeth of Appoquinimink Hundred to William Ball of Philadelphia the above 15 acres.
- March 27, 1774 W-1-169 William Ball and wife, Elizabeth, Merchant of Philadelphia to Thomas Wells, Dr. of Physicians - of Kent County 42 pounes.

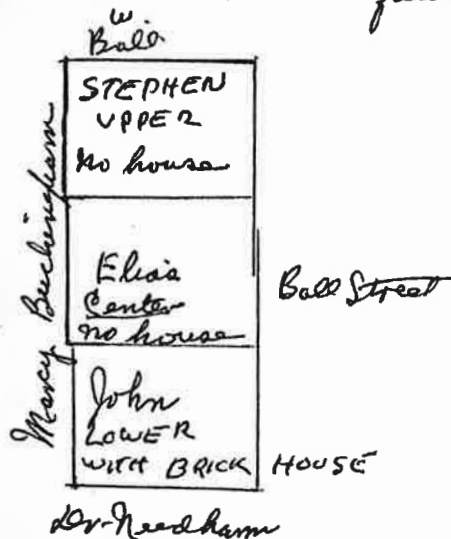


March 25, 1775

Sherriff's deed to Samuel West, Esq. (Deed not found but alluded to in future deeds)

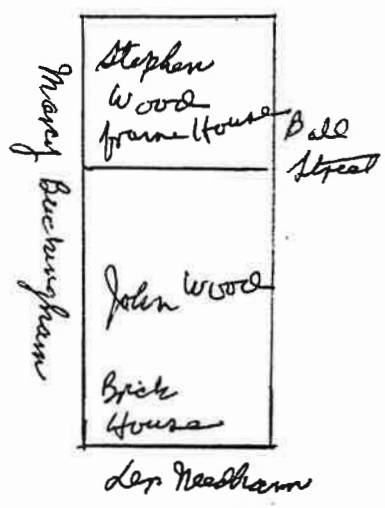
- February 17, 1779 W-1-204 Samuel West Esq of DCH and Hannah, his wife to Elias Wood, Stephen Wood and John Wood 150 pounes - West probably built the house - same meter and pounes.

November 17, 1779 W-1-233 The three brothers equally divided



March 15, 1783 Y-1-72475

Each of the Woods sold his share in his other lots to another brother. John owned #1 & #2 and Stephen owned upper #3
W. Ball



May 26, 1784 X-1-134

John Clayton, Sheriff to David Kennedy Merchant of D.C.H. the lands of Stephen Wood.

August 24, 1784 recorded in Y-1-13-15

Writ in Common Pleas to sell the lands and premises of John Wood for the debt of 50 lb 11 shillings & pence owed to Nathan Weston

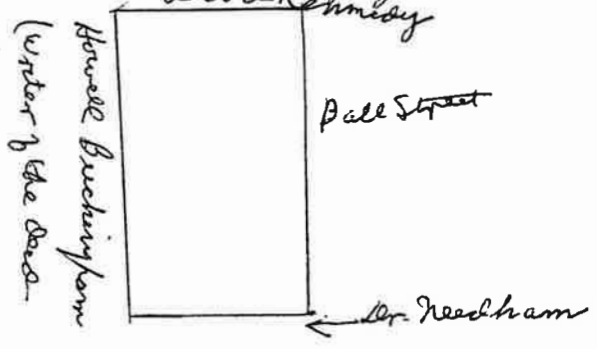
December 15, 1784 Y-1-13-15

Exposed to sale the lands and premises of John Wood. Sheriff to sell again on February 2, 1785. Deed not recorded until August 27, 1785

August 27, 1785

John Clayton, Sheriff to Eleazar McCombs of Dover for 300 pounds the mortgage and lot on Ball Street belonging to John Wood
David Kennedy

do not research the army which in 1785 was owned by Mary's & her's



Sometime after August 27, 1785
and November 4, 1786

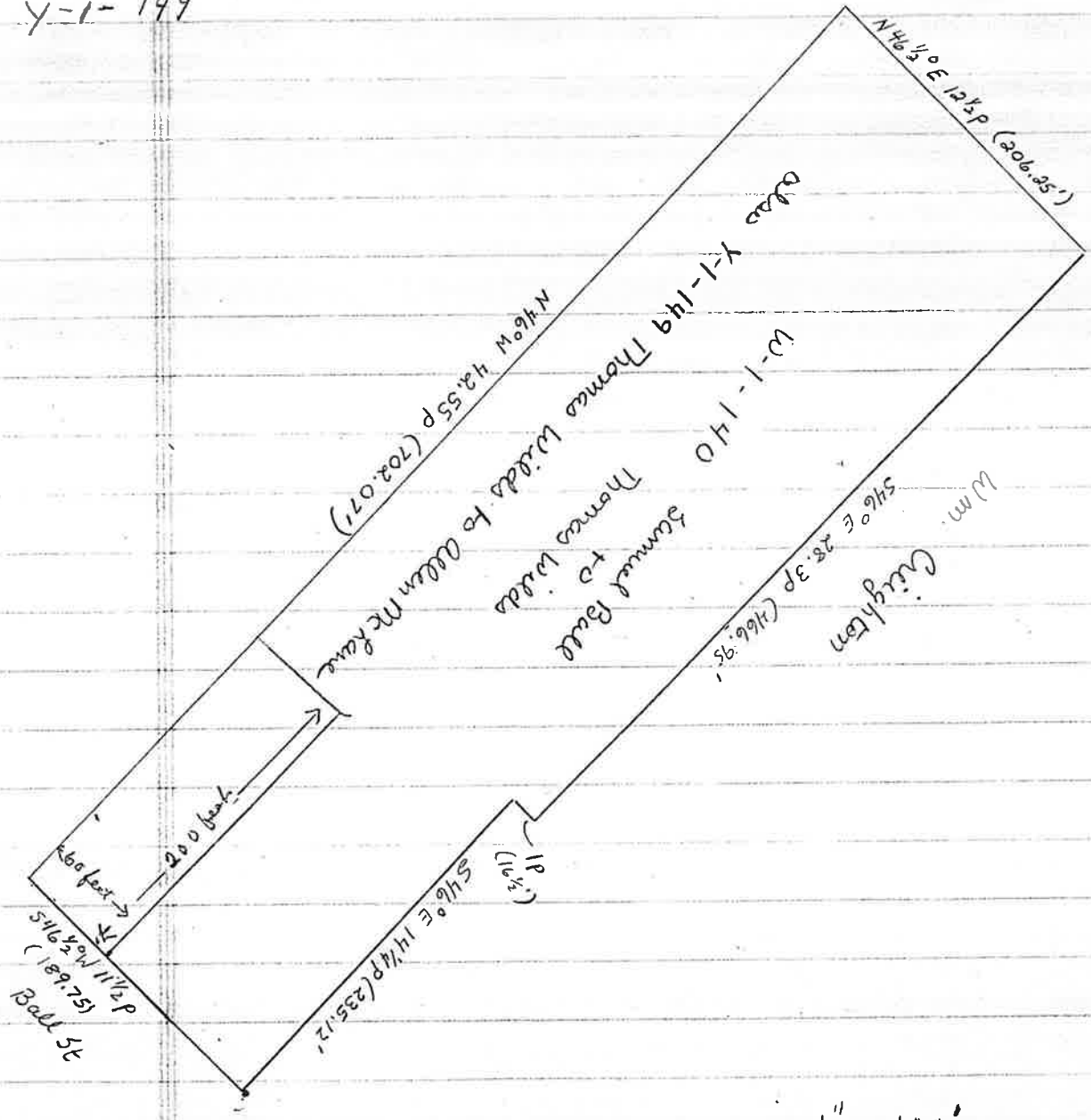
Eleazar McCombs and wife, Lydia, of
Deer to Rachael Caulk. (Deer not
located but alluded to in future Deers.)
Lower Lot of John Wood.

November 18, 1786 - E. 2-320

Eleazar McCombs and wife Lydia, of
Deer to James McDowell of Linn Creek
Center Lot of John Wood - 100 lbs.

N 7
1" = 100'

w-1-140
y-1-149



Begin at SW corner of David Hudson (Harden?)
YES

1" = 100'
1/2" = 50'
1/4" = 25'
1/8" = 12 1/2'

B-3-91

Methodist Church lot

Osac Davis
E 33°
N 46 1/2° E 9.4 P (55.1')

— Corner for Davis
John Cummins + Jas. J. J.

Dr. James Jones
S 46° E 28.6 P (471.9')

B-3-91

Allen McKee
TO
Thos. Mayberry

7P (111.55)
111.55
0.17055
ave

Church Lane
N 46° W 16.4 P (370.13')

1P (16.5)

land of David M. Wilson
S 46° E 14.4 P (237.6')

Ball St.
S 46° 45' W 7.0 P (116.49')

March 28, 1996

Mrs. Edith Edson
2076 Maidstone Farm Road
Annapolis, Maryland 21401

ME - I did not keep a copy of the deeds

Dear Mrs. Edson,

Thank you for have me do the research for your James Wells, Sheriff of Kent County. I trust that this report will be to your satisfaction. As I told you in our to-night's telephone conversation I did not know or realize that you wanted the Wells research, and so had to jump to it this week between my other commitments. The research was challenging and enlightening. Through the tax lists, the deeds and other papers and references I trust that I have found for you the paper trail of James Wells from his birth to his death, albeit no tombstone. As for his wife, Rebecca, whoever she may have been, at least there is proof that she was Rebecca _____.

When I did your Wells report I forgot one item which I'm adding here.

THE SMYRNA TIMES SMYRNA, DELAWARE WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON, DECEMBER 14, 1887

A CHAPTER OF LOCAL HISTORY

In the neighborhood of Capt. Allen McLane of Duck Creek Cross Roads lived James McDowell.

They were both Methodists and engaged in founding the Methodist Episcopal church in said village. Mr. McDowell became a widower. Mrs. McLane had a niece, a Miss Skilleton, who in the course of time received the addresses of Mr. McDowell, and became his second wife. They had several children, and one called "William" was very talented with whom, in after years, the writer became acquainted, while engaged in sabbath school work. She thinks if he had been educated as the McLanes were, he would have been equal to LEWIS, who was the most prominent member of the family.

Sarah Patterson Mason

Fee Schedule	11 hours	@ \$15.00 per hour	\$165.00	
	17 pages	xerox @ \$.25 per page	4.55	No receipt
	5 pages	xerox @ \$.15 per page	.75	
	Postage		3.00	
McLane and B. Wells in McLane Report	Total due		\$173.30	

Sincerely yours,

points all that lot or parcel of ground being off Ball street beginning at the
end of the lot sold to Rachael Gaulk up the street 75 feet to a lot formerly
Stephen Wood by now of David Kennedy, east 124.9 feet to the lands of Howall Buck-
thence down the line 75 feet to a corner of the lot sold to Rachael Gaulk,
by the said line of Gaulk 124.9 feet to the place of beginning.

Between November 18, 1786 and April 29, 1797 the history of the ownership of
house is unclear. Only TWO Duck Creek Hundred Tax Assessment Lists (1787 and
) have survived, and in neither one of them is Rachael Gaulk, ^{listed, either} as a widow or as
single woman, owning property in the Hundred. Whatever the circumstances were
authorised one George Wilson of the Cross Roads to sell the property. THIS
loading sale ad appeared in THE DELAWARE GAZETTE on July 30, 1791.

FOR SALE, A Lot of Ground,

*In the Town of Duck Creek Cross Roads, 75
feet front, and extending back 150 feet, adjoining
lands of Doctor Ezekiel Needham, and Mr
McDowel; on which is erected a good two story
brick house and kitchen; there are two comforta-
ble rooms on the first floor, and three on the se-
cond, with several other necessary improvements.
It was formerly occupied by Allen Mc Lane, Esq.
Considerable Credit may be had for part of the
payments, and sold upon reasonable terms. Any
person inclining to purchase will please enquire
of Mr. George Wilson, living in Duck Creek Cross
Roads.*

June 11, 1791

25 6

THE SMYRNA TIMES

SMYRNA, DELAWARE

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON OCTOBER
12, 1887

CAPTAIN ALLEN McLANE

Duck Creek Cross Roads and surrounding country had its full share of patriotic men when the war of the Revolution commenced, and Allen McLane was one of them.

His residence was near the street, which at that time was known as Ball street, having been donated to the little village by a gentleman of that name. It was afterwards nicknamed METHODIST from the wonderful revivals and successes of that denomination of Christians who held religious services in private houses on the said street. This name it bore for a century, until it was changed to Mount Vernon Street last year. The dwelling house which Capt. McLane owned and occupied was not on the street, but set back, and the front faced the western horizon, and was one of the few brick dwellings on that street. This property has been owned or tenanted by the Mayberry's from the writer's earliest recollections.

In 1784 the Methodist Church was organized in Baltimore and in 1786 1786 Capt. McLane donated the ground for the site of a church and cemetery. He was the most enthusiastic Methodist I ever heard of, for he wanted the church kept open for religious services every day. His wife and several children are buried in this cemetery. His son, Lewis, was born in the house where Mrs. Mayberry lives. After this distinguished family removed to Wilmington, Lewis became a United States Senator from Delaware, and served the State and Nation many years in that capacity. In subsequent years he was prominent member of President Jackson's cabinet, and afterwards represented the United States in the Court of St. James.

Capt. McLane had a farm on the State Road between Duck Creek Cross Roads and Dover where he spent a great deal of his time with his favorite Latt in agricultural pursuits.

In the History of the Revolutionary Soldiers of Delaware by William G. Whitely, I find that Captain Allen McLane was commissioned on January 13, 1777.

"He enlisted a partisan company and served faithfully and bravely throughout the war. He was in most, if not all the battles in the Northern Department, and in the battle at Yorktown."

When he went to war he took his favorite servant, Latt, to wait on him. On one occasion when in battle McLane was wounded, Latt went to him, picked him up and removed him to a place of safety.

The Captain took care of him for the balance of his life, and when he removed to Wilmington he left Latt in a tenement house on his farm and provided for his wants as long as he lived. The writer has seen Latt frequently and has some very amusing recollections of him when he came to Smyrna on Saturday afternoons.

Sarah P. Mason

We now know that there are several discrepancies in the story--one major one being that McLane's wife died in Wilmington. Another--that he was a senator for many years.

FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST

**HISTORIC HOUSES, BUILDINGS AND SITES
OF SMYRNA AND THE DUCK CREEK AREA**

by
GEORGE L. CALEY

Photographs by
CARLTON E. SEWARD

Published privately by the Author — 1978

Printed by SHANE QUALITY PRESS
Smyrna-Clayton Boulevard
Smyrna, Delaware 19977

This is

of a limited edition of 500 copies.

In 1782 Alexander Worknott purchased a lot of ground from David and Ruth Gordon. Within two years he erected a small brick house thereon. Later the house and lot passed to his son Conrad, who subsequently sold it to one David Miller in the 1820's.

Records are hazy as to owners from 1820 to 1860 when a brick dwellinghouse and lot were owned by Mr. G. Manlove. Assessment records and deeds do not state the size of the house. Therefore, it is impossible to make any statements concerning the pictured house.

All evidence points to the late Federal Period (1840) with its full three storeys, six-over-six windows, its side hall and dentil cornice work at the roof. As the building is stuccoed, it is not possible to ascertain the type of brick nor the bond of its laying.

It is possible that, like the POPE-MUSTARD MANSION, this one too was completely rebuilt in such a fashion that all evidence of the original were obliterated. However, the original brick structure may well have been torn down with the present one replacing it.

Evans and Rodway have been the more recent owners. Presently the building is tenanted and is owned by Mrs. Donald A. (Ruth J.) Knotts.



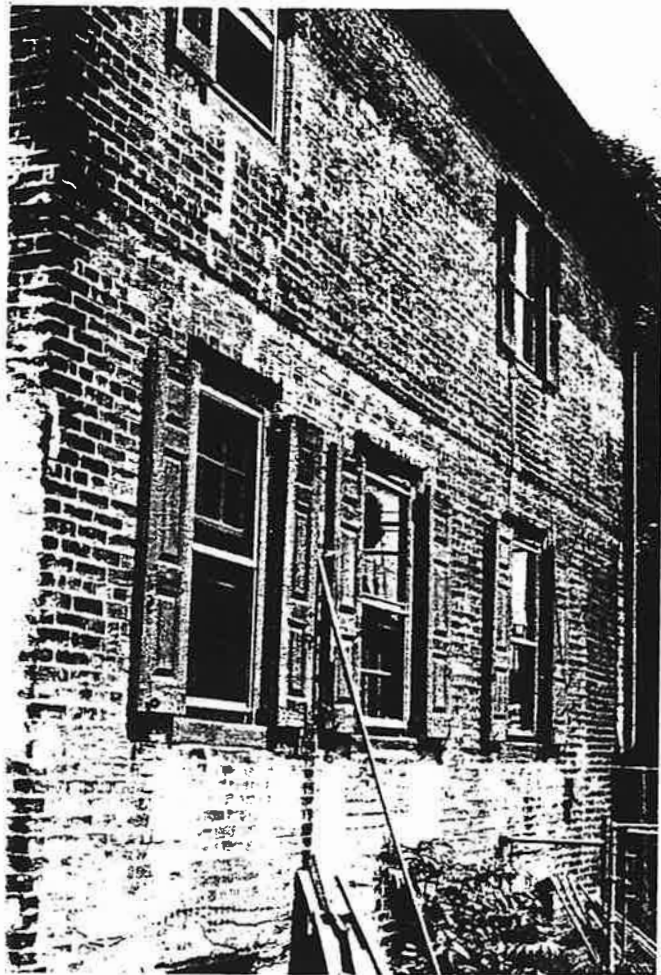
43. ALLEN McLANE HOUSE

Duck Creek Cross Roads' and Delaware's unsung hero of the American Revolution lived in this house prior to his call to the colors in 1775. Sometime during the conflict his wife and family moved from the village, and they returned after the Revolution. As they had rented the house, they, too, had to seek other quarters.

The house is a puzzler. Its building date has never been ascertained; it sets the wrong way, and the complete structure poses all sorts of architectural conjecture. Writing in the early 1860's about Allen McLane in THE SMYRNA TIMES, Sarah Patterson Mason states that "the McLane family before the Revolution lived in the old brick house three

First sentence incorrect.

Last sentence wrong.



original
front
of the house.

marked 1785

doors up from the M. E. Church". Yet McLane did not purchase the property until 1779. His deed of conveyance to Thomas Maberry was 1828. Maberry's son, Thomas C. of Philadelphia inherited the house, and two separate deeds did not appear until after 1864. Therefore, it is presumed that between 1829 and 1864 the original ALLEN McLANE HOUSE which faced west was added to, changed and altered into a "double house" which was architecturally turned to front onto Methodist (Mt. Vernon) Street. This alteration most probably occurred about 1840 as evidenced by the double fan windows, the Greek portico and the cornice.

Evidence points to the left exterior wall as being the original front of the structure. It is laid in Flemish bond, is two storeys and an attic high, has three bays containing six over six windows, and boasts a double bricked belt course. Traces of the opening for the entrance door are clearly visible. Interior doors, trim, moldings, fireplaces, an enclosed staircase, along with floor and ceiling scars, present visible proof that the left side is the older.

The right side is much more pretentious with its interior Federal motifs and designs—marbled fireplace fronts and mantels, ceiling plaster-of-Paris moldings, and interior wall sliding doors. For over a half century this was the property of William Baggs, a fairly

well-to-do businessman. During his occupancy the side was further updated by the addition of a two storey rear wing and shed; a side bay window, and the changing to two over two windows. He also installed at the top of the open stairway the bottom half of a rolled stained glass geometric design window from Asbury Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Bowers purchased the twin sides in 1972. In July of the Bicentennial Year, they were bought by Mrs. Ruth Porter from Mr. and Mrs. Roger Frazier. Presently THE ALLEN McLANE HOUSE is a single dwelling having been converted by Mrs. Porter who is slowly rehabilitating, restoring and adapting this historic house to present day use.



44. OLD ASBURY CEMETERY

Although Methodism came late to the Duck Creek area in 1778, it was they who built the first church structure in Duck Creek Cross Roads (present Smyrna). In 1785 Allen McLane and his wife gave to the Duck Creek Methodist Congregation a parcel of land to be used for a meeting house and graveyard. The site was located on present North Delaware Street near and across the intersection of North Street. During 1786, a frame church was erected and burials begun. In 1844, the wooden structure was closed when the congregation moved to its present location. However, the cemetery continued to be used until after the Civil War when Glenwood was opened. Many early Methodist families were buried here including the Stevensons, Cahoons, Milaways, Faries, and Perkins. The most imposing monument is that of Isaac Davis, early wealthy Smyrnian who was a judge of the Supreme Court of Delaware.

ALLEN MCLANE

- 1767 Allen McLane's trip to Europe and settling in the three-Lower Counties of Pennsylvania. Green, THE STORY OF DELAWARE IN THE REVOLUTION, Page 249
- REEL #3 1768 Kent County Allowances to 1784 Munderkill Hundred
1768 All Hundreds
Allen McLane not listed
- 1769 All Hundreds missing, but a few scattered delinquents
- 1770 January 1 Allen McLane married to Rebecca Wells Green page 249
- 1770 Allen McLane, leather breeches-maker, settled on a five acre farm near the Cross Roads. Green page 249
NOTE:--He must have rented as no deed was found.
- 1770 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane 15 no deed, probably assessed for his materials
- 1771 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane 6 no deed, cannot understand the decrease
- 1771 August 10 Kent County Deed Book T 1 143
Fenwick Fisher to Benjamin Dawson--in the description of the metes and bounds of Fisher's land to Dawson is the following--"A certain Lott of ground part of the real Estate of John Vining late of the County Esquire dec'd situate on the south side of the Landing Road near the Intersection with the County Road Commonly called The Cross Roads * * * * * Beginning at a corner stone of Allen McLane's Lott * * * * * to the place of Beginning Containing in said Bounds One Hundred and thirty one perches."
NOTE:--This deed clearly shows that Allen McLane either rented or owned a lot at the Cross Roads as early as 1771, one year before he purchased land from James Green. However, from previous research by other researchers and this one, this lot AT the Cross Roads was NOT the 5 acre farm alluded to by Green.
- 1771 January 1 or February 21 Allen McLane married to Rebecca Wells by Rev. John Miller. Telephone conversation--February 28, 1996 Mrs. Edith Edson.
- 1771 1772 January 14 Kent County Deed Book T 1 206 James Green to Allen McLane XEROXED EXHIBIT A
This deed was for two parcels of land in Duck Creek Hundred totalling four (4) acres plus, and was situated on both sides of present North Main Street. Not certain if either parcels contained a house. EXHIBIT S
- 1772 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane 12
- 1773 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED--First List
Allen McLane 12

Duck Creek Hundred--Second List

1773 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED--Second List
Allen McLane 12

1774 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED missing only the Delinquent shown
Allen McLane was the tax assessor

1775 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane 12 He was the tax assessor

1775 April 17 Beginning of the American Revolution

1775 September
Allen McLane appointed a lieutenant and adjutant in Caesar Rodney's
batallion. Green page 249

1776 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED
~~Allen McLane~~ not listed--but he signed as the tax assessor

1777 Duck Creek Hundred
Allen McLane not listed

1777 May 13 Kent County Deed W 1 164 Capt. Allen McLane and his wife, Re-
becca, no community listed, to Alexander Worknot of Duck Creek Hun-
dred the three acre plot of land purchased from James Green. (No
deed for the other acre has ever been located) XEROXED EXHIBIT B.

1777 May 14 Kent County Deed W 1 91 Isaac Carty of Duck Creek Cross Roads
to Capt. Allen McLane of Dover one acre near the Cross Roads.
XEROXED EXHIBIT C.

NOTE:--Although Allen McLane was in service, but was
from Duck Creek Hundred owning property there, he should have
appeared either in the regular Tax Assessment List or the De-
linquent List--if one or both survived. However, he never ap-
peared. ALSO Dover was in Murderkill Hundred as thus Allen
should also have been listed there, but he was not. Strange!!

1778 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1778 MURDER-KILL HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1778 November 25, Kent County Deed W 1 122 Joseph Fryer of Dover to
Captain Allen McLane of the Continental Service a house and lot
on the Modern "Green". XEROXED EXHIBIT D

1779 February 19 Kent County Deed W 1 146 Captain Allen McLane and his
wife, Rebecca of Dover to Daniel Curmins of Duck Creek Cross Roads
the lot McLane purchased from Isaac Carty. XEROXED EXHIBIT E.

NOTE:--the researcher is not sure of the location.

1779 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1779 MURDERKILL HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1780 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1780 MURDERKILL HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1781 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1781 MURDERKILL HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1781 October 21
Surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown, Virginia--End of American Revolution--Encyclopedia Britannica Vol.23, p. 385, 1947

1782 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED missing--only a small delinquent list
Allen McLane not listed

1782 MURDERKILL HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1783 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane 10

According to tradition McLane and his family rented the house on the present S.W. corner of Mt. Vernon and Market Streets. SEE #3 of the Allen McLane Post Card Set. This tradition is substantiated by the 1791 house sale ad in the DELAWARE GAZETTE. NOTE:--that the ad states that the house was occupied by Allen McLane--not owned--glc.

1783 MURDERKILL HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1783 May 13 Kent County Deed X 1 84 William Killen to James Wells, Shallopman and Allen McLane, Merchant (no residency listed) land in Little Creek Hundred XEROXED EXHIBIT G

1784 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED missing

1784 May 28 Louis McLane born in Duck Creek Cross Roads
NOTE;--the house in which he was born has not been definitely identified as researchers (previous ones) apparently did not know about THE SMYRNA TIMES. Sarah Patterson Mason, supposedly Delaware's first female newspaper contributors, in her article in the October 12, 1887 issue of the SMYRNA TIMES stated that "Lewis was born in the house where Mrs. Mayberry lives."
XEROXED EXHIBIT H.

With all of these variables one cannot with any certainty pin point McLane's whereabouts in Duck Creek Cross Roads from perhaps late 1781 or early 1782 until December 23, 1785--unless, of course, McLane himself in a diary or other papers, not known to other and this researcher, related those facts about his whereabouts.

1784 MURDERKILL HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1784 LITTLE CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed--he had purchased property in 1783

REEL #1 1785 Dover Hundred to 1797 Duck Creek Hundred

1785 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane 15

1785 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED DELINQUENT
Allen McLane 15 to poor to pay

1785 LITTLE CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1785 MURDERKILL HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1785 December 23 Kent County Deed Y 1 149 Thomas Wilds of Dover to Allen
McLane of Duck Creek Cross Roads 3 acres of land on Ball Street.
XEROXED EXHIBIT I
Marked on EXHIBIT S

1786 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED missing

1786 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED DELINQUENT
Allen McLane nit listed

According to a HISTORY OF ASBURY METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SMYRNA compiled and published in a Church Newspaper called THE METHODIST by Rev. W.W.W. Wilson the McLanes in 1786 permitted the Methodist Society to erect their Meeting House on a portion of their property which they had purchased from Thomas Wilds. Copy in an old Record Book located in the Office of Asbury United Methodist Church 20-26 W. Mt. Vernon Street, Smyrna, Delaware --mailing address P.O. Box 330 Smyrna, Delaware 19977.

1787 MURDERKILL HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed. Dover was in Murderkill Hundred. Allen McLane owned property there on The Green. I could not find any deed from McLane to . But McLane was never found listed in the MURDERKILL HUNDRED TAX ASSESSMENT LIST. So I will not continue to list this Hundred.

1787 LITTLE CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1788 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED, First List
Allen McLane Esq. 12
Allen McLane jr. 2

1788 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED, Second List
Allen McLane Esq. 12
Allen McLane jr. 2

NOTE:--the identity of Allen McLane jr. is not known to the researcher. He did not appear in any later lists.

1789 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED missing

1789 LITTLE CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1789 February 28 Kent County Deed B 2 1 Allen McLane of Kent County, Delaware from Andrew Barratt Esq., Sheriff, a portion of land in DUCK CREEK HUNDRED known as THE JUGGIE formerly of James Wells, the elder.

XEROXED EXHIBIT J.

NOTE:--This researcher has "run" into THE JUGGIE on other research project. One in which deeds were run from December 1, 1775 until before 1860 which that portion of THE JUGGIE descended to a Mrs. Bell. She was shown on the 1868 Beers ATLAS OF DUCK CREEK HUNDRED which was in a larger map publication entitled Beers ATLAS OF THE STATE OF DELAWARE 1868.

PORTION XEROXED EXHIBIT T

1790 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED missing

1790 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED DELINQUENT
Allen McLane not listed

1790 LITTLE CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1791 DUCK CREEK Missing

1791 LITTLE CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane Esq. 18
That entry did not (does not) indicate that the McLanes lived in Little Creek Hundred--it only indicated that Allen owned land.

1792 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED missing

1792 LITTLE CREEK Hundred
Allen McLane Esq. 22

1793 Duck Creek Hundred missing

1793 Duck Creek Hundred Delinquent
Allen McLane not listed

1793 1793 LITTLE CREEK HUNDRED missing

1794 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED missing

1794 LITTLE CREEK HUNDRED
Allen McLane not listed

1794 October 27 Kent County Deed E 2 68 Jesse Dean of Little Creek Hundred to Allen McLane of Duck Creek Hundred land in Little Creek Hundred.

XEROXED EXHIBIT K

1795 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED missing

1 1795 LITTLE CREEK HUNDRED missing

1795 September 14 Patent Book A p. 8 State of Delaware to Allen McLane
land in Little Creek Hundred warranted November 19, 1790.
XEROXED EXHIBIT L

1796 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED missing

1796 LITTLE CREEK HUNDRED missing

1796 March 28 Kent County Deed Book E 2 209 Francis Barber of St. Jones
Hundred to Allen McLane 5 acres of land in Little Creek Hundred,
XEROXED EXHIBIT M
According to this deed Allen McLane was residing in Little Creek
Hundred, at least when the deed was written.

1797 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED p. 89 First List
Allen McLane

A Lot of Ground containing 2 acres whereon is Erected a Brick
 Dwelling House, kitchen and stables in the occupation of Edward
 Worrell at 30 per annum. (House purchased from Wilds--glc)
 The other acre on which stood the Meeting House and Cemeter was
 not listed. (McLane's future or in fact, son-in-law 300.00

A Lot of Ground in Whigsborough of one
 acre with two frame tenements in tenure of John
 Clarke and Negro John at 12 per annum 100.00
 *Location not known

A plantation of 230 acres with a log dwell-
 ing house, kitchen, Barn, Stables and crib in tol-
 erable repair in tenure of _____
 130 acres of the above Improved @ 7.00
 and 100 acres of the above unimproved @ 8.00
 Aggregate 1320.00

1797 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED p. 76 First List
Edward Worrell

1 horse 10 years old 30	1 cow 4 5s	34.5
Personal Tax 100.00		<u>130.0</u>
Aggregate		134.5

1797 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED Second List

Allen McLane	Real 1320	Personal 0	Aggregate 1320
Edward Worrell	Real 0	Personal 136	Aggregate 136 *

* 1 pound and five shilling difference

1797 February 27

Allen McLane appointed collector of customs at Wilmington, Delaware.

1797 May 10, 1797 Kent County Deed F 2 40 John Dickinson of Wilmington
and Allen McLane (residency not shown) to Jacob Baker, Thomas Has-
kins and Caleb North, Philadelphia merchants 337 acres of land in
Mispillion Hundred. XEROXED EXHIBIT N.

1797 LITTIE CREEK HUNDRED *glc Ref my taking of assessments in April--
page 1 of report entitled, JAMES WELLS, SHERIFF.

Allen McLane Esq.

2 acres of Land and a small house rented to Elisabeth
Israel for 7 10 s 0 p a year about half the land in cripple
62.10.0

200 acres of Land on which he lives of which is cleared the residue of 140 acres in woodland, the buildings in good repair @6	600.00.0
10 on plate silver @8/4	4. 3.6
2 plow horses 10 years old	30. 0.0
1 mare 12 years old	30. 0.0
1 2 year old calf	20. 0.0
1 yearling calf	7.10.0
1 Bull 8 6 milch cows 21.10	29.10.0
2 young steers 3 years old	10. 0.0
12 young cattle	30. 0.0
1 sow 9 pigs 7 shoats 7 1 (unreadable)	5.17.6
Personal Tax	100.00.0

Aggregate 989.10.10

This Tax Assessment List made in April clearly stated that at that
month, at least, Allen McLane was a resident of Little Creek Hundred, and
had not moved to Wilmington as custom's collector. ALSO the acreage
in this assessment does not agree with the acreage in deed Y 1 84.

1798 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED First List p. 86 ALLEN McLANE	
130 Acres Improved 100 Acres Unimproved @7/5	863.10.0
A Lot of Ground of 2 acres whereon is Erected a Brick Messuage, stables and etc in good repair in occupation of John Cole @ 45 (glc--per annum)	375. 0.0
A small house (frame) occupied by N Rogers @ 12 (glc--per annum)	50. 0.0
1 Lot of 1 acre of ground in Whigsborough to Wm. Numbers @ 20 (glc--per annum)	166.13.4
Aggregate	1455. 3.4

The last entry means that McLane sold that
lot to Wm. Numbers. HOWEVER, I did NOT find that
deed. Another instance where the only proof of sale
is in the Tax Assessment List. Perhaps years later in Numbers
or in a Numbers' heir deed to _____ that purchase may be
cited.

1798 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED First List	page not taken	
William Numbers	no description	166.13.4

1798 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED Second List	NAME	LAND AND MARSH	VALUE	#Slaves	Value
	Allen McLane	223	1455.3.4	0	0
		RATE ON PERSON	AMT. of ALL OTHER PROPERTY	0	0
		AGGREGATE	1455.3.4		
	John Numbers	no description		AGGREGATE	166.13.4

1799 DUCK CREEK HUNDRED NOT TAKEN

1799 LITTLE CREEK HUNDRED not taken

1799 May 9 Keht County Deed F 2 187 Allen McLane and his wife, Rebecca of Wilmington to John Cole et ux of Duck Creek Cross Roads, Trustees of The M. E. Society, the one acre of land on which was already erected a Meeting House and cemetery. XEROXED EXHIBIT O

Hall of Records
Court Street and
Legislative Avenue
Dover, Delaware 1977

1800 FEDERAL CENSUS
WILMINGTON, DELAWARE
WILMINGTON HUNDRED

Reel #1
Printed Page ?
Written Page ?

NAME

Allen McLane, Esq. 2 free white males of 10 and under 16
 1 free white male of 45 upward
 1 free white female of 45 upward

1807 May 1 Kent County Deed K 2 189 Allen McLane of Wilmington from James Keith of Little Creek Hundred 21 acres plus adjoining lands of Allen McLane. XEROXED EXHIBIT P

1807 May 11 Death of Rebecca Wells McLane, wife of Allen McLane, Esq.

1828 March 20 Kent County Deed B 3 91 Allen McLane of Wilmington to Thomas Maberry of Smyrna, the house and lot in Smyrna (on Methodist Street--glc) purchased from Thomas Wilds. XEROXED EXHIBIT Q

1829 May 22 Death of Allen McLane Esq.

1821-1821 Probate of Allen McLane. Only found his will which was sent to Mrs. Edith Edson in the JAMES WELLS, SHERIFF, REPORT on March 28, 1996. For the researcher's file and Mrs. Edson's file, if she so choses, the will is marked EXHIBIT R.

reference

The following was found in my files when I was doing work on the JUGGIE
NO DATE Kent County Deed H 3 244 Louis McLane and his wife, Catherine for \$1500 to Simon Spearman 236 acres of land in THE JUGGIE Bought by Allen McLane deceased, father of Louis.

NOTE:--According to Deed B 2 1 Allen purchased only 200 acres. No deed found for the extra 36.

Other materials enclosed:

1. Price guide for photocopy at The Archives
2. THE McLANE HOUSE and OLD ASBURY CEMETERY from FOOTPRINTS OF THE PAST
3. COL. ALLEN McLANE SET of Six Post Cards
4. A NEW AGE BEGINS, by Page Smith 1995 Volume 2 Penquin Books--a brief introductory concerning Allen McLane pages 1354 & 1355

George L. Caley
Researcher, genealogist & historian
June 16, 1996
112 West South Street
Smyrna, Duck Creek Hundred
Kent County, Delaware 1977

A
NEW
AGE
NOW
BEGINS



Page Smith

VOLUME TWO



PENGUIN BOOKS

to a rural heritage, to an understanding and fellowship with the rural gentry and yeomanry who were the major and dominant class in Delaware.

His birthplace, though a town, was very modest indeed. The name Duck Creek Cross Roads betrays its rural nature; Smyrna, which it became in 1806, is the mark of its pretensions. The town grew on a tract called "Gravesend," where James Green began selling lots in 1768 because two roads met here. One from a landing on Duck Creek proceeded across the Delmarva Peninsula to the Eastern Shore of Maryland; the other ran from Dover, the county seat, north toward New Castle and Wilmington. Here on four and a half acres of land that Allen McLane, "leather-breeches maker," bought of James Green on January 4, 1772,⁸⁹ it is likely that Louis McLane was born twelve years later, and here he lived till his parents moved to Wilmington in 1797.

How the McLane children were educated while the family lived at Smyrna is not known. The village had not more than one hundred houses, and in spite of what the gazetteers call its "brisk trade" with Philadelphia,⁹⁰ it had no established school. Perhaps a clergyman supplemented his salary by schoolkeeping; perhaps the McLanes and other families combined to "board around" a hired teacher; perhaps some of the townsmen had "bought" a teacher, for it is said that Kent farmers used to watch for immigrant ships coming up the Delaware, and then ride up to New Castle and buy the indenture of some lettered Scotch-Irishman whom they could put to teaching their children.

X DUCK CREEK TO WILMINGTON

More problems than his children's education bothered Allen McLane during his residence in Smyrna. His commission business did not prosper as he hoped; his post as marshal brought him many responsibilities "but no profit." Indeed, he complained to Washington, "the office . . . taking all things in to Consideration brings me in Debt. I cannot Get men of integrety to assist me as Deputy marshall if I wont Give them all the fees. . . . I have to neglect all other Concerns to attend to the duties of the office which laies at Extream parts of the State."⁹¹ The "extream parts" of Delaware were, of course, not very far apart, but roads were bad, travel in wet weather could be unpleasant, and the necessity of serving a writ in the southern part of Sussex County or northwestern New Castle could be a most annoying interference with his other business at Smyrna. The compensation for serving any writ, warrant, or attachment was only two dollars, plus five cents a mile for travel.⁹² Consequently Allen besought the President to "add some appointment of profit," for

of such vital importance in planning that attack, made a careful reconnaissance of the approaches to Paulus Hook. They were, on the face of it, simple enough and thoroughly disheartening. The fort stood on a low sandspit that projected out into the river. From the north and northwest, it could be approached across a salt marsh. A tidal creek, Harsimus Creek, too deep to wade, ran across its front and was deepened and extended by a man-made moat. A circle of strong abatis, commanded by two small redoubts, provided the main line of defense, while the heart of the position was a larger redoubt containing five guns and situated near the center of the fortification. Three barracks and a powder magazine completed the works. The garrison was commanded by Major William Sutherland, who had under him a portion of the Sixty-fourth Light Infantry under Captain Thomas Dundas, forty-one Hessians under Captain Von Schaller, a body of invalid soldiers, and some Tories from Cortlandt Skinner's New Jersey Volunteers. There were some ordnance men and a few ladies of easy virtue who provided distraction for those soldiers fortunate enough to enjoy their favors.

Washington, persuaded by Lee that an attack was feasible, assigned four hundred soldiers to the operation: two hundred Virginia Continentals, McLane's partisans, and Captain Levin Handy's two Maryland companies.

McLane, a rich and aristocratic young Philadelphian, was a particularly interesting character. He had inherited a sizable estate on the death of his father just at the beginning of the war, and he had thereupon undertaken to raise a company of soldiers. By the end of 1777 he had spent most of his fortune (some £115,000) to buy handsome uniforms for his men and pay their wages. For a time the uniforms seemed worth the effort; McLane had captured a British patrol on Long Island because, among the informally clad American forces, the British had mistaken McLane's men for Hessians. At White Plains, in the retreat through New Jersey, and at Trenton and Princeton, he had fought with such bravery and enterprise that Washington gave him a battlefield commission. In the winter of Valley Forge, his men were so successful at harassing British and Tory foraging parties that they became known as the "market stoppers." At the end of 1778, McLane's detachment of soldiers was incorporated into the Delaware Regiment, which in turn became part of Henry Lee's "Legion"—modeled, in large part, after Banastre Tarleton's "Loyal Legion."

McLane was indeed the beau ideal of a handsome and dashing young officer, with all the gifts of a born military leader; and he was

adored by his men, whose comfort and well-being he placed before his own. Yet he was too forthright and independent, too impetuous and indiscreet to be advanced in any systematic way through the military hierarchy. His dislike and indeed suspicion of Benedict Arnold, which began when he observed Arnold's highhanded and corrupt rule of the city of Philadelphia, simply served to get him in trouble with Washington. When McLane tried to tell Washington about Arnold's profiteering and, in McLane's opinion, treachery, Washington gave him a sharp rebuke.

On the morning of August 18, Lee left Paramus with the two companies of Marylanders and several wagons to create the impression that he was starting out to forage for supplies. The rest of his force joined him at New Bridge, and late in the afternoon he moved off toward Bergen. During McLane's reconnoitering of the approaches to Paulus Hook, he had encountered a deserter who had given him detailed information about the garrison. The distance from New Bridge to Bergen was sixteen miles, with another two miles to Paulus Hook. The timing of the attack was crucial not only because of the importance of the element of surprise but because it was thought that the moat could only be crossed at low tide. Lee's plan was to attack at midnight, just after the turn of the tide. This would presumably give him time to seize the fort, destroy the works, and carry off its defenders as prisoners. Washington took steps to be sure that boats were available across the Hackensack, west of Bergen, to assist in the escape of Lee's force in the event of pursuit.

The first misadventure of the expedition came when Lee's guide took him on a long and apparently unnecessary detour through rough country, so that Lee and his detachment reached their assembly point near Bergen three hours behind schedule. In the difficult and often exhausting march, half the Virginia troops under Major Clark had disappeared. There was the suspicion that Clark, who was furious at being under the command of Lee, an officer junior to him by some months, had dragged his feet or encouraged his men to drag theirs. In any event it was a blow to Lee to learn that his small force was so seriously depleted just at the moment when he was preparing for the assault. Washington, aware of Lee's hell-for-leather propensities, his impetuosity, and his desire for military glory, had been emphatic about one point: Lee must not carry through the attack if he lost the element of surprise. To stop now to try to locate the missing Virginians would be to delay the attack until daylight, which would put an end to





DR. ALLEN MCLANE

1824—1831

D. Sir

Collector's office New York
Sept. 4th 1875

By this mail I received yours of the
2d Inst. I think with you that the master
of the Hebe ought not to be prosecuted

If my presence is necessary
when Bennett's claim in the case of
the tickles comes to be tried at the
approaching Court a note from
you would be sufficient to
call my attendance but as Mr
Bennett has presumed to claim
as informed he ought to pay
the cost and ought to be subject

I should be gratified to
hear what Mr. Ingersoll is like to make
of the difference of opinion between
the President and the Comptroller
relative to Newland. I am

respectfully yours
A. S. S. M. W. C.

and John Steele

1788

Jan 7. 19

Thomas Flickey to Ino. Darrach

To 3 1/2 Yards broad cloth a 18/9	3	5	8
To 3 1/2 Yards Waize a 3/6	"	12	3
To Buttons 1/3 1 scan silk 8 ^d	"	1	"
To 2 3/4 y ^d Cotton Callico a 4/6	"	12	5
State of Delaware	£	4	12 3

March 20

Shert County. Is on the 22 day of
 May 1793 Came John Darrach
 before me and proved this acct.
 of four pound twelve Shillings
 and three pence as stated against
 the Flickey D. as the Law Directs

Justis

W. M. Lane

Jeremiah Rees Deceased Dr. In Act. with Smith
& Megear Law

1791

November 19th To 1 Chimney Barrow 13 1/2 tobacco big

West County on the 23 day of March 1799
Came Hugh Megear before me and proved
this acct of Six Shillings and nine pence as
stated against Jeremiah Rees Dr. as the land
Deeds

prob 6

AMM

1794 John Starling Deceas. to John Slaughter & £. s. d.

April 4 to 12 Bush. of oats at 3/- per Bush. 1. 16. 0

5 to 12 Bush. of oats. at 3/- per Bush. 1. 16. 0

Hend County. on the 9th day of May 1795 Came 3. 12. 0

John Slack before me one of the Justices of the Peace
and proved this acct. of three pounds twelve shillings
as stated against John Starling D. agreeable to Law.

Just of
J. H. Lane

#374

D. Sed

Camp Meads Nov 8 84

I am now hard pressed to raise a sum of money - and must pay - in Philadelphia the last of this week - I flatter my self you will - assist me with - the Ballance of your -
and - I am your friend

Amthare

M. J. Burns

D. Sed Camp Meads Nov 8 1784 Mrs. H. New York

I have not yet received your letter on the subject of your twenty pounds bond that has been due some time - you say not opened I should not be so perplexed but - find my self very - and my credit hard - strained - I rely - agreeable to your promises you will - oblige me by sending - wheat or money - forward: the last of this week - I must raise money - I am your friend

Mallechin Ambarose

Carnegie Book Shop
N. Y. C. Feb. 1964
810.

Mr Wm Young

Duck Creek Oct 4th 88

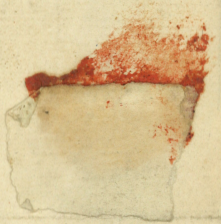
I have kind Sunday articles for
Mr Hill without Bill I cannot
write them till you forward me
one

I am with respect

Yours
A. Lane

#374 A

Mr William Young
Stationer
Philadelphia



Col. Allen Mc Lane
of the Revolutionary Army
Master of the Ship Mc Lane

Letter of Mr Lane
Oct 1, 1788
Lynch Creek
Decorative flourish

John W. ...
...
May 29. 1829

Recorded in Book 8

Page 280

In the name of God Amen. I
 Allen McLane, of the Borough of Wilmington,
 in the State of Delaware, Collector of the Customs
 of the United States, for the Delaware District, and
 a friend, & soldier of the American Revolution,
 being unwell & weak in body, but of sound & disposing
 mind memory & understanding, befoed be God,
 for the same, do make & declare this my last will, &
 testament, in manner & form following, that is to say,

Whereas, I have, at different periods,
 in my lifetime, advanced, given, delivered, assigned,
 transferred or conveyed, unto my daughter, Rebecca,
 who intermarried with Edward Worral, and to my
 son in law, the said Edward Worral, and to my grandson
 George Worral, one of the children of the said Edward
 Worral, & my said daughter, Rebecca, for his own use,
 or in trust, for the maintenance ^{of} ^{me} of my said
 daughter, during her natural life, & after
 death for her children, ⁱⁿ ^{an} ^{ample} ^{provision}
 certain real & personal estate, ^{of} ^{an} ^{ample}
 provision for them, out of my estate, conneced with
 the public offices & bestowed on the said Edward
 Worral, formerly, and since, on his son, the said
 George Worral;

It is my will determination &
 intent, that neither my said daughter, Rebecca, nor
 her husband, the said Edward Worral, nor their
 children, shall have any further part or
 or share of my real or personal estate, than what
 I have heretofore advanced, given, delivered,
 assigned, transferred, or conveyed to them, in my
 lifetime, as aforesaid.

And Whereas I have bestion
 amount, of all I have thus advanced, given, or
 conveyed to them, as aforesaid, it is my further
 will, determination, & positive direction, that no claim
 no,

charge whatsoever, be brought forward by my Ex^{ors},
 herein ~~after~~ named, against my said daughter, Rebecca,
 or her husband, the said Edward Worral, or their children,
 or any of them, on account of the said real & personal
 estate, so as aforesaid, advanced, given, & transferred,
 or conveyed to them, or either of them, who are hereby
 absolutely released & discharged from all account for
 the same.

Whereas I have, in my life time, advanced,
 given, or conveyed unto my son Louis McLane, Esquire,
 and to his children, certain real & personal estate to
 a considerable amount, of which I have also here an
 account, it is my will determination & positive direction,
 that no claim, nor charge whatsoever, shall be made,
 or brought forward against him, them or either of
 them, on account of the said real & personal estate,
 so as aforesaid advanced, given, or conveyed to him,
 or them, who are hereby absolutely discharged, and
 released from all account for the same.

And Whereas I have, in my lifetime
 transferred, assigned & set over, unto my said son
 Louis McLane, all my right title & interest, probably,
 claims & demand, of in & to, certain fines, forfeitures
 & penalties, incurred by the claimants, of the ships
 Good Friends, Amazon & United States, & of their
 cargoes, respectively, seized by me, as Collector
 of the Delaware District, & prosecuted in the
 Courts of the United States, for the said District;
 it is my further will, determination, & positive
 direction, that no claim, nor charge whatsoever, be
 made, or brought forward against my said son,
 Louis McLane, for or by reason of the said
 transfer, or assignment of the said fines,
 forfeitures & penalties; or of any sum or sums
 of money that may have been, or may be received
 on account of the same; or of any public stock, bank,
 or other stock in which the same may have been, or
 may be invested whether in his or my name, or otherwise,
 which

he is hereby authorized to receive & transfer, as he may judge proper: And I do hereby absolutely release & discharge him from all claims, demand, or account for, or by reason of the same

Whereas, I have, in my lifetime, advanced given or conveyed unto my son Doctor, Allen McLane & his children, certain real & personal estate, to a considerable amount, of which I have kept an account, it is my will, determination & positive direction, that no claim, nor charge whatsoever, shall be made, or brought forward against him, then, or either of them, on account of the said real & personal estate, so as aforesaid, advanced, given or conveyed to him, or them, who are hereby absolutely discharged, & released from all account, for the same.

And whereas, I have, in my lifetime, assigned, transferred & put over, unto my said son, Allen McLane, all my right title & interest, property claim & demand, of in & to, certain fines, forfeitures, & penalties incurred by the claimant of the former Mary, & George, wife by me, or Execution of the Delaware District, & proceeded in the Courts of the United States, for the said District, it is my will, determination, & positive direction, that no claim, nor charge, whatsoever, be made, or brought forward against my said son, Allen McLane, for, or by reason of, the said transfer, or assignment of the said fines, forfeitures, or penalties, or of any sum or sums of money, that may have been received, or may be received, on account of the same: and I do hereby, absolutely release & discharge him, from all claim, demand, or account for, or by reason of the same.

It is my further will, that should any accounts, or charges, be found, after my death, against either of my children, or grand children, or my son in law, that the same be cancelled by my Executors, hereinafter named; that it is my intention to discontinue all such accounts, before I die, being desirous, of leaving no cause, of family difference, or dispute, between them, after my death.

As to the estate, real personal, or mixed, lands, tenements, or hereditaments, I now hold, claim, or possess, & give devise, & bequeath the same, as follows: I give & devise unto my son Louis McLane

his heirs & assigns forever, the house, in which I now reside, with
 the lot of ground & its appurtenances, situate in the Borough
 of Wilmington, & bound by a wall & fence on the South, and on the
 on the West, & the enclosures of Jackson, Rogers, & others, until
 it intersects a straight line, from N. Richards house
 to the lot occupied by Mr. Harwood, I also give & devise unto my
 said son Louis McLane, his heirs & assigns forever, the house
 & lot, situate in the said Borough, on the North corner of
 French, & Second streets, and bounding on the first lot, on
 the North, Second Street on the South, and the house Charles
 King occupies on the West. I also give & devise

to my said son Louis McLane, his heirs & assigns forever,
 the house & lot, occupied by Charles King
 situate on Second Street, in the said Borough. I also
 give & devise to my said son Louis McLane his heirs &
 assigns forever, all those small lots, situate in the said
 Borough, now occupied by Edward Gilpin as a coal
 lot, with the wooden tenements erected on the said
 lots, occupied by Lawrence Curry, as a dwelling house,
 & by Caleb Hicks, bound on the North by Second Street,
 & by French Street, joining to Samuel Haskie's lot &
 stable, in French Street. I also give & devise to my
 said son Louis McLane, his heirs & assigns forever, all
 those several small lots, & an old one, situate on the
 South East side of Second & French Streets, in the
 said Borough, now in the tenure of George Young
 and Nathan Hapel, & formerly a part of the estate
 of Isaac Kendrickson.

I give & devise to my son Allen McLane,
 all the lot he occupies as a garden, in the said Borough,
 bounding on his lot on Second Street, and all the lot
 bounding on Third Street, including the stables house
 & one house, occupied by John Rogers, to him the
 said Allen McLane, his heirs & assigns forever.
 I also give & devise to my said son Allen McLane,
 his heirs & assigns forever, the brick house, & lot
 on Ring Street, occupied by William Windall,
 including that part of my garden, directly West
 of N. Richards house garden, directly West
 on the South line of N. Richards house, & on the
 & on the North, by the lot granted to himself, as a
 garden; and also, both those wooden tenements &
 lots, situate in Ring Street, on the East side, occupied
 by Samuel Haskie and Joseph Roberts.

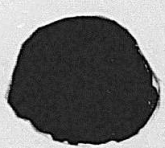
JH

It is my intention to prepare a plot or survey of all the adjacent lots, with their apt use, and if my health should permit, & to leave the same, at my death, or annex it to this Will.

All the real & personal estate, real personal or mixed, lands, tenements & hereditaments, goods, debts & effects of what nature or kind, soever, or wherever situate, not herein before given or disposed of, after the payment of my just debts & funeral expences, I give devise & bequeath to my son Louis McLane & his heirs & assigns forever; and I do make nominate constitute & appoint my said son Louis McLane, sole executor, of this my last will & testament, hereby revoking & making void all & every other will, & wills, heretofore, at any time, by me made, & so declare this, to be my last will & testament.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, & seal, the twenty fourth day of November, in the year of our Lord, One thousand, eight hundred & twenty one.

L. McLane



The writing contained in this & the preceding was signed & sealed, by the above named Allen McLane, and by him, published & declared, as, & for, his last will, & testament, in the presence of us, who have hereunto subscribed our names, as witnesses, at his request, & in his presence, & in the presence of each other; the words "certain real & personal estate, to a large amount" on the first page, having been first interlined.

Henry Geddes
H. Stuart
A. Rodner

New-Castle County Md. Personally appeared Henry Geddes, one of the subscribing witnesses, to the above and foregoing Will, who being solemnly sworn, on the Holy Evangelists of almighty God, did say that he saw Allen McLane the Testator sign & seal the said Instrument of writing and heard him publish, pronounce, and declare, the

the same, to be his last Will and Testament. That at the time of his so doing
he was, to the best of his belief, of a sound disposing mind and memory
and that it was at the request of the Testator, and in his presence, he
subscribed his name thereto as a Witness, and at the same time said
John Stewart subscribe his name as another Witness to the same.
The said Henry Goddard does not recollect having seen Gaspar A.
Hedney Esq. subscribe his name as a Witness.

In Testimony

whereof I have hereunto set my Hand at New Castle May 29, 1829

Edw^d M^r. Thomas.

Notary.

Inventory
Allen W Lane
filed June 5th 1829.
3

Inventory and Appraisement of all kind
 and singular the goods, chattels and effects which were
 of the late Allen McLane of the Borough of Wilmington,
 at the time of his death, taken this Second day of June
 in the Year 1829. by Lewis McLane Executor and the
 appraisements made by David Bush and John Garbit
 so far forth as they came to their sight & knowledge.

	D ^r . Cr.
1 Wash Stands, 9 Chair, 1 Tea Kettle	4. 50
2 Potts, 1 Skillet, 1 Kitchen, 1 Wash Basin	1. 50
4 Brap Candelsticks, 1 Lamp, 1 Oil Can	. 75
23 Saucers, 8 Cups, 2 Tea Pots 10 plates	. 50
4 Dishes, 2 Coffee Pots, 5 Decanters	1. 25
2 Bedsteads Mattresses, 12 Turnblers	2. 50
3 Knives Forks, 3 Tea Spoons	. 25
1 pair Snuff Stand, 1 Table, 1 Case	1. 50
1 Grid Iron, 1 Fish Kettle, 1 old oven	. 75
2 pair Shovel Hooks, 1 pair And Iron	1. -
2 Pillow Cases, 2 Bolster ditto	. 40
1 pair Rose Blanketts	3. -
1 ditto Home made ditto	1. -
3 Indian Blanketts	1. -
1 Cotton Bed Spread	1. -
2 pair Ruspic Linnen Shirts old	. 50
3 ditto. Cotton ditto	. 50
1 Bed and Bedstead	12. -
1 Chamber Chair	1. 50
3 Umbrellas \$4.00. 6 Cans \$1.50	5. 50
Wilkinson's Memoir	3. -
1 old circular Walnut Table	1. 25
4 Bottles Wine, 3 Decanters	1. 50
7 part Bottle oil, and Grocery	. 50
1 Lot Brushes 75c. part Lump Sugar 30c.	1. 05
1 fewling pick and Power Hoem	3. -
Amo ^t carried forward	Dollars. 51. 20

Amount brought forward	51.20.
7 Wine Glasses, 1 Set Custard Cups	50.
1 pair Pocket Pistol	1.75.
1 Case Mathematical Instruments	1. -
Sundry Pictures and Maps	1. -
1 old Mahogany Dining Table	2. -
1 large Spy Glass	4. -
1 Spade & Shovels	1.25.
2 Pitchforks, 2 dung vills, 1 Sp.	2.50.
2 Saws, 1 Rake, 1 Hoe	75.
1 Hoe and Lot Rakes	50.
6 large and 4 small Baskets	1.50.
1 old Arm Chair \$1.00. 1 large Looking Glass \$3.00	4. -
Lot Sunshades in Room	4. -
1 old Walnut Desk \$5.00. 1 Wheelbarrow \$1.00	6. -
1 large old Trunk 50c. 17 worn Towels 1.00	1.50.
Wearing Apparel	25. -
2 large and 3 small Table Cloths	3. -
Parcel old Curtains and Spread	50.
1 old Chest 25c. 1 Cloth Bag 75c	1. -
1 Stand, Toilet Table and Stool	1. -
1 Hair Matras	5. -
4 Swords	1.50.
Sundry files Stubs Papers	5. -
2 old Trunks	25.
84 Books	20. -
large Collection Pamphlets	4. -
3 Dozen Wine Bottles	2.25
4 or 5 small Portu vills	1.60.

Amount Dollars 153.55

One Hundred Fifty Three Dollars Fifty five Cents.

L. M. Lane
Executor.

David Bush
John Forbert

Smiths 1 Silver Watch
3 pair Silver card Spencers
One Hundred Eighty Seven
Dollars fifty five Cents.

25. -
9. -
David Bush
John Forbert
187.55

I also return the following account of money & list of debts & to do so comprehending all of which I have any knowledge.

Cash found in the house in a large chest } \$1510.00
and in a desk - }

Stock of U. S. 4 1/2 per cent in the name of } 3000.00
William J. Swann, but for the use of the Testator - }
Note James Barron dated 20. March 1822 }
with interest from the date do not pay C. } 600.00

Debts due 25. March last from the following persons, and received,

Mc Cabe \$ 3. - D. Stuart \$10. - Mr. Miller \$15. - }
C. Ring \$12.50 - Mary Brian \$4.00 - Mrs. Johnson 5. } 49.50
Rent due of Mrs. Johnson same time - paid, 8.00
" " " Rebecca Bennett - disburse, 10.00

\$5177.50.
L. M. Lane Executor, 187.55
June 5. 1829. } 5365.05

NEW CASTLE COUNTY, ss.

To any Justice of the Peace, for said County.

You are hereby authorized and required to administer the oath or affirmation of Appraisers to Messrs *David Bush* and *John Forbert* well and truly to appraise the Goods and Chattels, which were of *Allan M. Lane* *Esq.* late of *Christiana* Hundred, deceased, so far forth as the same shall come to their sight and knowledge, in lawful money of the United States.

Register's Office, New-Castle,
May 29. 1829.

Erwin G. Thomas. REGISTER.

*qualification
paid \$11.40*

Newcastle bairny —

Personally appeared this 10th
November David Bush and John Torbert —
who on their solemn affirmation say that they
well will and truly appraise the goods and
effects ware of Alexander McLean Esq^r late of
hundred so far as the same shall come to their
sight and knowledge before me

John Leonard

J. P.



SPONSOR: Sen. Bushweller & Sen. Ennis
Reps. Carson & Scott

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
146th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 7

URGING ALL DELAWAREANS TO HONOR THE MEMORY AND MOMENTIOUS ACHIEVEMENTS OF MAJOR ALLEN MCLANE, AN OFTEN OVERLOOKED DELAWARE REVOLUTIONARY WAR HERO, WITH AN APPROPRIATE MEMORIAL.

1 WHEREAS, Allen McLane of the northern Kent County village of Duck Creek Crossroads, now known as
2 Smyrna, was one of Delaware's most significant heroes of the American Revolution, whose contributions were summarized
3 by Christopher Ward in his 1941 work, *The Delaware Continentals, 1776-1783*, in this way: "There was no more active,
4 brave, and in every sense distinguished Delaware soldier in the Revolution than Captain Allen McLane... His was a dashing
5 career of personal adventure. He served Washington in many ways, and his courage, intelligence and adroitness saved
6 more than one situation of peril for some part of the American forces"; and

7 WHEREAS, McLane, born to Scottish immigrants in Philadelphia in 1746, was the son of a successful maker of
8 leather garments who was able to offer his son some of the comforts of wealth, including two years of European travel as a
9 young man; and

10 WHEREAS, upon his return to America, McLane settled in the village of Duck Creek Crossroads as the patriotic
11 cause gradually increased in fervor in the years leading up to the outbreak of the American Revolution, and the young man
12 found himself increasingly stirred by the fiery rhetoric of patriotic leaders like Virginia's Patrick Henry and the actions of
13 New England Minutemen against British Regulars at Lexington and Concord; and

14 WHEREAS, McLane volunteered for military service in Virginia in the earliest days of the struggle, and, after
15 securing a commission in 1775 as a lieutenant in a Kent County Militia regiment under General Caesar Rodney, he
16 transferred to the Continental Army under General George Washington near New York City in 1776; and

17 WHEREAS, soon thereafter, he distinguished himself at the Battle of Long Island, and then at the battles of White
18 Plains, Trenton and Princeton; and

19 WHEREAS, as a result of his performance in those battles, according to Christopher Ward [*Delaware*
20 *Continentals*, p. 527], McLane "by his good conduct and exemplary gallantry, so particularly attracted the attention of
21 General Washington as to be immediately appointed to a Captaincy in a Continental Regiment. Sent to Delaware to recruit,

22 he speedily rejoined the army with ninety-four men, raised at his own expense, every shilling of the bounty money being
23 drawn from his pocket;" and

24 WHEREAS, throughout the remainder of the war, McLane repeatedly distinguished himself with meritorious
25 service and a wide variety of situations, from conventional battles to what would today be considered special operations and
26 even, in one instance, diplomatic service of crucial importance, when he was sent by Washington as a special envoy to
27 French Admiral, Count de Grasse at Jamaica, urging him to send the French fleet post haste to the lower Chesapeake Bay to
28 support the American siege of the British army under General Cornwallis at Yorktown; and

29 WHEREAS, the success of that mission was directly related to the American victory in the Battle of Yorktown and
30 the ultimate American victory in the Revolutionary war; and

31 WHEREAS, General Washington wrote of McLane in a Certificate of Service presented to him by the general in
32 November, 1783, that "From the certificate, which Major McLane is possessed of, it appears that he was early active in the
33 cause of his country, and from the time of his joining the Continental army, I can testify, that he distinguished himself
34 highly, as a brave and enterprising officer...;" and

35 WHEREAS, following the war, in 1797, McLane was appointed by his former commander, now President George
36 Washington, to the lucrative post of Customs Collector of the Port of Wilmington; and

37 WHEREAS, in the years before his passing in 1829, McLane remained very involved in the political life of the
38 new nation, including becoming an outspoken opponent of slavery in Delaware; and

39 WHEREAS, McLane's son, Louis, also distinguished himself in service to his state and his nation, serving as a
40 five-term Delaware Congressman, U.S. Senator and Secretary of the Treasury and Secretary of State under President
41 Andrew Jackson, Minister Plenipotentiary to the United Kingdom, and President of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad;

42 NOW, THEREFORE:

43 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the 146th General Assembly of the State of
44 Delaware, with the approval of the governor, that we do hereby urge all Delawareans in general, and the citizens of Smyrna
45 and Kent County, where McLane made his home, in particular, to honor the life and accomplishments of this great, but
46 under-appreciated, Delaware hero of the American Revolution.

47 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the citizens of the First State and of the said town and county are hereby
48 requested to consider appropriate means of honoring Major Allen McLane in a lasting way, which will serve to inform
49 future generations of his great contributions to the creation of the Delaware State and the United States of America, and that
50 their thoughts and suggestions be directed to the Delaware General Assembly and to the Smyrna Town Council and the
51 Kent County Levy Court for their consideration.

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Joint Resolution honors the memory and accomplishments of Major Allen McLane of Smyrna, a great hero of the American Revolution. It urges the citizens of the state in general and those of Smyrna and Kent County in particular to consider appropriate means of honoring McLane's memory in a lasting way and to share their thoughts and ideas with the Delaware General Assembly, the Smyrna Town Council and the Kent County Levy Court.

Author: Senator Bushweller

ALLEN MCLANE, 1746-1829

The eyes and ears of General Washington, daring spy, intrepid fighter, passionate patriot of Duck Creek, courageous leader, and unknown hero of the Revolution. These are some names by which Allen McLane has been known.

This son of Scottish immigrants to Pennsylvania was born in Philadelphia in 1746. His father was a successful maker of leather breeches and was able to offer Allen some of the comforts of wealth. After travelling in Europe for two years, he moved to Duck Creek Crossroads (Smyrna.) Influenced by the fiery speeches of Patrick Henry and the patriotic spirit of the New Englanders at Lexington and Concord, he was inspired to sign on as a volunteer against the Royal Governor and military leader Lord Dunmore at Great Bridge Virginia, his first of many battles over the next six years. Some estimates credit him with participation in as many as 100 battles and skirmishes.

After signing up as a lieutenant with the Delaware Regiment under Caesar Rodney, he soon joined the Continental Army under General Washington. The Commander in Chief soon noticed his talent as a leader and daring fighter and called on him to lead raids against the British. He was called on to be a spy for Washington and is recognized on a C.I.A. website as an early effective user of disguise. Through his spying efforts, in 1778 he prevented the British from surprising Washington and the Marquis de Lafayette on two separate occasions outside Philadelphia and possibly ending the war right there.

He often escaped capture from British ambushes with his daring actions and quick decisions in the face of danger. The artist James Peale in 1803 painted the scene of McLane fighting off three British Dragoons in an attempt to collect the one thousand pound price that General Howe had placed on his head.

The absolute most important assignment that McLane received from General Washington was to sail to the West Indies in July 1781 to meet with the French Admiral, the Count de Grasse. Washington was fearful that the British fleet would come to the Chesapeake with their naval strength and neutralize the siege that the Continental Army was carrying out against General Cornwallis at Yorktown. Because of Major McLane's convincing presentation, the French Admiral determined to immediately sail to the aid of Washington and his fellow countryman the Marquis. His decision was critical to the successful defeat of the British at Yorktown. With the British fleet arriving from Rhode Island a week late after Cornwallis' surrender, who can say how the war might have ended, had it not been for Allen McLane's successful mission to the West Indies.

As with many other heroes of the Revolution, Allen McLane has received little recognition and acclaim from all of the patriotic contributions that he made to our new nation. President Washington did appoint him to a very lucrative position of Collector of the Port of Wilmington in 1797, a position that allowed McLane to become a wealthy man. His son Louis McLane became a very prominent figure in Delaware and national politics as six-time Congressman, U. S. Senator and Secretary of Treasury and Secretary of State under Andrew Jackson.

McLane died in 1829 and is buried at the Asbury UM cemetery at 2nd and Walnut streets in Wilmington.

Prepared by Tom Welch