

NOTES AND QUERIES

Notes

Robert Morris, the financier of the American Revolution, was imprisoned for debt in his old age. He entered the old prison in Walnut street at Sixth, February 15, 1798. "Prune Street" was the popular name given to the debtors' apartments. The building ran through to Prune, now Locust street, and prisoners who were taken for debt were placed in that end of the jail. The Historical Society of Pennsylvania has recently acquired the original letter written by Robert Morris to John Nicholson ten days before his incarceration in which he states "I shall now prepare for Pruen Street". The letter follows:

Jn^o Nicholson Esq^r

Hills Feb^y 5th 1798

Dear Sir

previous to the arrival of Francis with your Notes N^o 1 to 4 inclusive of this day. I had just received Geo Eddys of this day by which I perceive He is determined to put me in Prison if He can, and I submit since it must be so, perhaps he may repent of His Conduct when it is too late—

I will send the Caution but not the Deed, if it is necessary to have it immediately recorded in the Counties where the Lands lie, it is more Necessary to my interest to have it done in Huntingdon by Mifflin than in Luzern, The Mortgage will protect the latter I believe. I shall now prepare for Pruen Street but I hope you will be able to keep clear as you have no false Friend for Bail which is unhappily the case of

Rob^t Morris.

THE SUPREME EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF
the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

To any Protestant Minister

Whereas Application has been made to Us by William Wright of Lower Dublin Township, Philad^a. County, Mason and Elinor Northrop of the same place

to be joined together in holy Matrimony, and there appearing no lawful Let or Impediment, by Reason of Pre-Contract, Consanguinity, Affinity, or any just Cause whatsoever, to hinder the said Marriage: THESE are therefore to license and authorize you to join the said

William Wright and Elinor Northrop

in the holy Bands of Matrimony, and them to pronounce MAN and WIFE.

GIVEN under the lesser Seal of the said Commonwealth at Philadelphia, the eleventh Day of February in the Year of our Lord One Thousand seven Hundred and eighty three.

Attest

John Dickinson, President.

T. Matlack,

Sec^y.

From the original in the possession of Mrs. Samuel Price Wetherill.

Query

BEAKES or BEEKS. If anyone has more data about the ancestors and descendants of William Beakes and his wife, Mary Wall or Waln, who came to Bucks County, Pennsylvania, about 1682, than is given in the *Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography*, XXX., especially relating to the branch of the family which went to Frederick County, Virginia, I should be glad to be advised. Was the William Beeks who married Margaret Hinkle, about 1790, in Bucks County, of this line? I am told that Abraham Beakes went to Frederick County, Virginia, about 1751. A Christopher Beks is listed as the head of a family in Frederick County, Virginia, in 1782. Did he marry Catharine Barnes, and can anyone give me information about the Barnes family?

Katharine K. Adams,
1837 Greenleaf Avenue,
Rogers Park, Chicago, Illinois.