Charles Arbuthnot McClintock

Charles Arbuthnot McClintock, familiarly known as "Spook," died unexpectedly on Wednesday, August 14, 1968, in the Western Pennsylvania Hospital, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. On June 15 he had celebrated his eighty-fifth birthday and had just returned from a visit to Cape Cod. He had reported to his doctor with a slight cold and it was thought best at this time to have him take his annual check-up. He had passed his tests and been pronounced "perfect" and was planning to leave the hospital next day. He was reading our Magazine and had asked the nurse for a drink of water. She returned a few minutes later and found him slumped down, his chin on his chest. She naturally thought him asleep, but as one of his friends put it: "He had slipped his anchor and taken off for the stars, never to return."

This Society had lost one of its ablest and most devoted friends and supporters.

Mr. McClintock was a person of broad interests, which, combined with a cordial and gracious manner, led him to be known as one of our outstanding citizens.

As a traveler he covered points of interest both here and abroad. As a scholar his books showed an interest in the sciences and, surprisingly, astronomy was one of them. His valuable library was donated to Princeton several years ago. As a collector his paintings showed discriminating judgment. As a musician he was endowed with a beautiful bass voice and he used it effectively in many local events. As a soldier he served briefly with combat troops as a captain in the 1st Division, and in the Army of Occupation he was a major of the 1st Battalion of the 7th Infantry, 3rd Division. As an athlete he participated in collegiate football for a time. As a businessman he served as an officer in several of our leading banks. It can be said, as known by his intimates and as indicated by his gifts, that his two chief interests were first "The Historical Society," specifically its glass collection, and second Princeton University, specifically its football activity.

Mr. McClintock's interest in history and genealogy was natural. He was born in the Point Breeze section, son of Jonas Roup McClintock and Elizabeth Carswell Arbuthnot. Through his parents he was thus related to the following families — Roup, Ball, Graham, Arbuthnot, Shaw, Wilson, Scott and Thompson, of whom no less than sixteen ancestors were in Pittsburgh before 1800 and his grandfather was the fifth mayor of the city.

He joined the Historical Society on March 23, 1934, at a time
when it was struggling for existence, and for thirty-four years he devoted himself to developing it to its present condition, of which all of us are proud. He served for eight years as treasurer from January 28, 1944, and as president for twelve years from January 31, 1950, until January 21, 1963.

During this period he raised other money but was responsible for the creation of a modest endowment which is growing, and he matched a special bequest to make needed improvements. A basement stuffed with foreign language newspapers was converted into the beautiful Siebeneck and Members' Rooms; an elevator was installed; the library was rejuvenated and an attractive lounge added. The Magazine was indexed for quick reference and, under Miss Trimble, it took on new life; the glass exhibit was enlarged; books, manuscripts, maps, etc., were cataloged; and attendance at lectures showed increasing interest on the part of the public. In general it may be said that there was no form of activity which was not improved by the interest and criticism of Mr. McClintock.

The Society is now benefited by his will which leaves a substantial bequest to the Endowment Fund, and approximately 125 pieces of personally selected glass to increase our exhibit and the money to purchase a case to display it. He has also donated over a hundred books related to local history.

Mr. McClintock attended two preparatory schools. For a time he was in the Class of 1902 at Shady Side Academy. Because of the friendship of his uncle with the headmaster of Kiskiminetas Springs School he changed schools and graduated there in 1903. When ready for college he was confronted with a problem. His uncle, Tom Arbuthnot, who was then or later a life trustee at Yale, and Spook's brother, Wils, who was already enrolled at Yale, were two strong arguments in favor of Yale. His other uncle, Wils Arbuthnot, who was then or later a life trustee of Princeton and Spook's boyhood friend, Ewing Rafferty, who was already playing football at Princeton, influenced his decision and he entered Princeton. Rafferty takes a natural pride in that and adds this personal tribute: "The University is wont to say. 'An alumnus can never repay the debt he owes his college' but in this case it is the other way around."

Mr. McClintock entered Princeton and graduated with an AB degree in the Class of 1907. At the time of his death he was president of that class.

He participated in football on entry and his interest in that sport never waned in spite of an injury which led him to acquiesce to the
wishes of his family to give it up. He shifted his activity to cheerleading at the games and long after graduation it was not uncommon for him to be called from the stands to lead the singing and cheers at important games. He thus became one of the most widely known alumni and in local Princeton activities sixty years after graduation no one would attempt to lead either singing or cheering if he were present. He not only attracted many athletes to Princeton but he showed a personal interest in their advancement after graduation. Not long ago he was honored here at a dinner of football men he had interested in Princeton. There were about thirty present and it was interesting to note that without exception every one of them held high office in either businesses or the professions.

Starting as an insurance man, Mr. McClintock is best known today in business circles as former Chairman of the Board of the Fidelity Title & Trust Co., as president of the Colonial Trust Co., as director of Pittsburgh National Bank, and later president of the Carnegie Hero Fund. He was also a director of the Western Pennsylvania Hospital.

The honorary degree of Doctor of Laws was conferred on him by Waynesburg College in 1959.

He was a member of the Duquesne Club, the Pittsburgh Athletic Association, the Fox Chapel Golf Club, the Pittsburgh Golf Club, the Princeton Club of New York, the H. Y. P. Club of Pittsburgh and the Nassau and Tiger Inn Clubs of Princeton.

Appropriate funeral services for Mr. McClintock were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Howard C. Scharfe on Saturday, August 17, 1968, in the Shadyside Presbyterian Church, of which he was a faithful member. A beautiful tribute was paid to his memory, after which he was buried in the Homewood Cemetery. He is survived by two nephews and two nieces.

Long will he be missed by this city and by Princeton University.

Historical Society of Western Pennsylvania

Robert D. Christie