James McMaster, Jr., was born in Lancaster County in 1750, the son of James McMaster who had emigrated from Ayrshire, Scotland, about 1740. In 1761, James, Sr., received patents of land at Conestoga Manor, Lancaster County, from the sons of William Penn, and he lived there until shortly before the Revolution when he sold the land and bought a farm in Berwick Township, York County, then moving to Abbotstown, Adams County, where he died.

James, Jr., served a total of six months in the Revolution: two months in 1776 in the York County Militia as a volunteer; in 1778 he was elected an ensign in the militia and again served two months, and finally in 1781 he served for two months as a militia lieutenant.

Following the Revolution he married a Sarah Groscooss of Berwick who bore him six children: John Alexander, James, Sarah, Mary, Betsy, and Jesse. The family moved via covered wagon to Mt. Pleasant, Westmoreland County. After the death of his first wife, James married Jane Clary Speer who was the mother of his last four children: Samuel Clary, Peggy, Robert, and Silas. Again on the move, the family bought a farm near Clarion at Strattanville in 1807.

In 1834, James applied for a war pension, averring that all his records had been lost or destroyed. His statements were accepted, and until his death in 1836 he received a small pension.

Although only three of his sons married and none of his daughters, his descendants probably number about one thousand, many in Clarion County, some in Allegheny County, and others scattered over the nation.

The family fared poorly in farming and in floating rafts of logs down the Allegheny to Pittsburgh, and the old homestead burned. Most of the Clarion County McMasters are buried in the old Strattanville cemetery.

One son, Samuel Clary McMaster, my great-grandfather, moved to Pittsburgh, became a hatter, helped found the Sixth Presbyterian Church Sunday School, and is buried in Allegheny Cemetery as are many of his children and grandchildren.

Incidentally, the sundial mentioned in the will is still in existence and owned by a sixth generation descendant. What happened to the

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Mr. Jones holds a B.A. degree from Lafayette College in English and followed in his father's footsteps as a newspaperman. The will he writes about was that of his great-great-grandfather.—Editor
farmhouse, the acres, and the little orchard mentioned in the will — no one knows.

**Will of James McMaster, Jr.**
**of Clarion Township, Armstrong County, later Clarion County**

In the name of God, Amen. I, James McMaster of Armstrong County, Clarion Township and State of Pennsylvania being weak in body but of sound mind and memory and calling to mind the mortality of body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die, do give and dispose of my worldly estate in the manner and form following, that is, to say, first, I recommend my Soul to Almighty God that gave it and my body to the Earth to be buried in a Christian like and decent manner at the discretion of my Executor hereinafter mentioned — Secondly I give and bequeath to my beloved wife Jane eighty acres of the place I now live on to be laid of the east side by a North and South line so as to include the young Orchard and to run West North of the Orchard so far as to make the said acres to be the equal property of my wife, Jane, my daughters Mary, Betsy and Peggy and I also give to my wife Jane, the Cubbord and stove, her bed and bedding and my black mare . . . . and secondly I give to my son James McMaster eighty acres out of the south west corner to include the land in the corner so far as the offset of Seventy Eight Perches and to continue the course of that line East to make out the Eighty Acres and allowance and to have the privilege of all equal share of the old orchard with the rest of the family until seven years after my decease. And I give and bequeath to my son Silas McMaster eighty acres, the remainder of the place. And it is my will and I allow my daughters Betsy and Peggy each a bed and bedding and it is my will and I do allow my son Silas to pay to my son James Eighty dollars in seven equal annual payments after my decease. And I allow my daughter Betsy the chest I now own and it is my will and I do allow all my just debts and funeral expenses to be paid as soon as may conveniently be done after my decease and all the rest of my moveable property that remains to be divided equally among my family. And lastly I constitute my sons James and Silas McMaster to be executors of my last will and testament. In witness whereof I do hereunto set my hand and seal.

James McMaster

Feb. 16, 1836

signed in the presence of John C. Corbet and George Brisbane
I, James McMaster of Armstrong County, Clarion Township, Pennsylvania do allow and wish the following to be in addition to the above bequests. The eighty dollars that is mentioned to be paid in yearly payments by Silas McMaster to James McMaster is to be void and of none effect and not to be paid and it is my wish and will that my wife Jane is to have the line so run that it is to run from the Brisbane line north to run in such a manner as to take in the house and half of the garden and continue Northwest until it takes in the young orchard and then as before until it includes the 80 acres before specified and it is to be equally owned as above and if hickory firewood to had —— from the rest of the place. And it is my will and I allow my wife Jane one milch cow to be kept on the place and the two large apple trees furthest up in the garden to be for the use of the family living in the house and I allow my wife six pounds of wool; 100 wt. of pork; 50 pounds of Beef; —— pounds of Sugar; three pounds of Coffee; half a pound of Tea; seven bushels of Wheat; four of Buckwheat; three of Corn and also in addition to the foregoing will I allow my wife Jane, daughter Peggy and daughter Betsy each a bedstead and twenty-two gees [geese?] to be the equal property of my Jane and daughters Peggy and Betsy and I allow my daughter Peggy her bonnet Box and chest and a black heiffer and saddle and I allow my family remaining in the house the big pot and little black kittle [sic], the little skillet, three calico quilts, the sun dial and grindstone while they live together as a family and I allow my wife the new coverlid and I allow my sons, John Alexander, Jesse and Samuel McMaster each one dollar. In testimony of the foregoing codicil I hereunto set my hand and seal this 17th day of March 1836.

In the presence of John McCormack and John C. Corbet.