



# Haverford Township Historical Society



## JOSEPH THOMAS McCLELLAN (1833-1909)

Compiled by Richard Kerr

*[The following is excerpted from Historic Homes and Institutions and Genealogical and Personal Memoirs of Chester and Delaware Counties, Pennsylvania, by Gilbert Cope and Henry Graham Ashmead, published by The Lewis Company, New York and Chicago in 1904.]*

**JOSEPH THOMAS McCLELLAN**, a prominent business man of Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, was born January 23, 1833, in Upper Darby township, Delaware county, and is a son of Samuel and Elizabeth (Thomas) McClellan, and a grandson of Robert and Ann (Thomas) McClellan, of Upper Darby, Delaware county, Pennsylvania. Samuel McClellan was twice married, and by his first wife he had five children:

1. Maria McClellan,
2. Samuel McClellan,
3. Mary McClellan,
4. John McClellan
5. Elizabeth McClellan.

The mother of these children died, and Mr. McClellan married Elizabeth Thomas, who became the mother of the following children:

1. Ann T. McClellan,
2. Joseph T. McClellan [see below],
3. Robert McClellan.

Samuel McClellan died in December, 1847, and his wife Elizabeth died in 1848 or 1849.

JOSEPH THOMAS McCLELLAN was the second child and first son of Samuel McClellan and his second wife, Elizabeth Thomas. He was educated in Delaware county, and after leaving school entered a blacksmith shop at Fitzwatertown, near Germantown, Montgomery county, Pennsylvania. Here he learned his trade, serving four years and nine months, and afterward accepted a position in Philadelphia as journeyman. This position he held a short time and then settled at what is now Lancaster Pike and Penn street, Bryn Mawr, in Haverford township, where he opened a carriage factory and blacksmith shop. Having acquired a practical knowledge as a veterinarian under the preceptorship of Dr. Robert McClure, of Philadelphia, he began practice as a veterinary surgeon, at the same time attending to his factory and shops. The business grew in time to demand his whole attention, and he was obliged to abandon his professional work for the management of the carriage factory. Since 1856 he has been a member of the United American Mechanics, and he also belongs to the Masonic Order, affiliating with Cassia Lodge No. 273, Free and Accepted Masons, of which he is a past master. He is past high priest of Montgomery Chapter No. 262, R. A. M., and he was for twenty-seven years a member of St. John's Commandery, K. T., from which he holds a demit. He is past grand and past district deputy grand master of Banyan Tree Lodge, No. 378, Independent Order of Odd Fellows.

Mr. McClellan married, December 18, 1856, Christiana M. Ristine, daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Fredricks) Ristine, the father being a native of Germany. Jacob and Catherine Ristine were married December 31, 1813, and became the parents of the following children. [. . .]

The children of Mr. and Mrs. McClellan were:

1. George R. McClellan, born November 1, 1857;
2. Katie McClellan, who was born September 14, 1860, and died in August, 1865;
3. Elizabeth McClellan, who was born June 23, 1865, and married, April 22, 1896, Dr. Herbert T. Ziebarth, a graduate of the Chirurgical Medical College of Philadelphia, has one child, Christine McClellan, born May 16, 1897;
4. Henry Joseph McClellan, who was born February 6, 1867, now a practicing physician and a graduate of Baltimore University, married Lillian G. Metzger of Jeffersonville, New York;
5. Emma May McClellan, who was born April 16, 1869, and died May 13, 1876;
6. Frank E. McClellan, born April 29, 1871, who married Mary L. Moore of Haverford, has one child, Francis Moore;
7. William J. McClellan, born May 25 1876, married Mary B. Boyer of Philadelphia, and has one child, Laura Sparks, born March 9, 1902.



Envelope from Joseph T. McClellan's business, postmarked 1894.

[The following is excerpted from "The Hub," a trade periodical for carriage and wagon builders, Vol. LI No. 4, July 1909, pg. 144, at <https://books.google.com/books?id=uz5JAQAAMAAJ>.]

Joseph T. McClelland, for fifty-four years in business at one stand at Bryn Mawr, Pa., died suddenly June 24 [1909] from acute indigestion.

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