

ARCHIBALD MICKLE.

THIS man was an Irish Quaker. The records of Friends in Philadelphia indicate that he came from Lisbrun, a town in the southern part of the county of Antrim, Ireland, and that he arrived at that city on the second day of the sixth month, A. D. 1682.

He probably was among the adventurers that followed William Penn to his new colony, bringing with him considerable estate and a full supply of implements to continue the business of a cooper, in which calling he had served as an apprentice in the land of his nativity. This was worth much to him among the settlers, who generally arrived with but little house-keeping material, and had to be supplied with their wooden ware of home manufacture, when a new establishment was to be set up. Coopers were also in demand along the sea coast, as whale fishing occupied much of the time of the people, and barrels were necessary to carry away the oil. This was the most lucrative business among them, and more capital was invested in it than in any other branch. In a letter from the West New Jersey Society to Jeremiah Basse, their agent, then residing at Cape May, dated December 24th, 1692, he is directed to secure the services of a French cooper at Plymouth, skilled in making casks. The letter further says: "In the season let him make a little wine and brandy, and send us the wine in casks and the brandy in bottles."¹ Much is also

¹ Lib. B2, 423.

said about barrels for the fishing season, and the quantity required would certainly employ several persons, and among them it is possible that Archibald Mickle was one.

The next notice made of him was in 1686, when he married Sarah Watts, at the same meeting at which his certificate of membership and the date of his coming had been recorded.

Four years after that time, he purchased a tract of land of Robert Turner in Newton township, Gloucester county, containing two hundred and fifty acres.² This survey was situated near the head of the south branch of Newton creek, adjoining lands located by Francis Collins. This tract afterward became the property of Joseph Lowe, who occupied the same.

At the date of this purchase, Archibald Mickle was still a resident of Philadelphia, but he soon after came to Newton township and settled, and there remained until his decease in 1706. In 1697, he made another purchase from the same man, of five hundred and ten acres, which survey fronted on the river Delaware and extended eastward towards Cooper's creek.³ This deed excepted several meadow lots, and is valuable as showing the antecedent title of the grantor.

He did not make the first improvements there, for a man named Thomas Spearman lived in a house on the tract at the time of his purchase, which house stood near the river shore and near where the former residence of Isaac Mickle, deceased, is situated.

He was the owner of considerable other real estate in the neighborhood, and the inference is, therefore, that he was a man of more means than most of his neighbors, and, excepting William Cooper, of any other in the township. In the political affairs of the colony, his name does not appear, but the fact of his being a Quaker and a strict adherent to his sect, may be drawn from that clause of his will which directed that any one of his children marrying without consent of Friends was to only have one-half of his or her share of his estate. This is certainly a significant expression, and places his religious proclivities beyond a doubt.

² Nasse's Book, 119.

³ Lib G3, 133.

His will was dated in 1706; in which he gave his real estate to eight of his children.⁴ His widow Sarah survived him, she being the mother of all his children. After the father's death, the estate was conveyed to the widow, and she, by her will (1718), gave the property to three of her sons, Archibald, James and Joseph,⁵ who divided the same by quit claim in 1727.

Seven sons and three daughters were the representatives of this couple, as follows: John, who married Hannah Cooper (daughter of the second William), in 1704; Samuel, who married Elizabeth Cooper daughter of Joseph, in 1708; Daniel, who married Hannah Dennis, in 1711; Archibald, who married Mary Wright in 1719; Isaac, who married Sarah Burrough, daughter of Samuel; Joseph, who married Elizabeth Eastlack in 1723; James, who married Sarah Eastlack in 1732; Sarah, who married Ezekiel Siddon; Mary, who married Arthur Powell; and Rachel, who married Benjamin Cooper in 1718.

John Mickle, the oldest son, was an active man in the political matters of the colony in his day, and also dealt much in real estate. By Thomas Sharp, as his deputy surveyor, he located several tracts of land in different parts of West Jersey. In 1733, he was appointed one of the judges of the several courts of Gloucester county, and filled other offices of public trust and responsibility.

In 1703, "for natural love and affection," his father conveyed to him a farm containing one hundred and fourteen acres, bounded on the south side by the south branch of Newton creek, and being within the town bounds of Gloucester.⁶ On this farm he settled, and there remained during his life. He deceased in 1744, his wife and the following children surviving him: William, who married Sarah Wright in 1732; John, who married Mary Stockdale, of Burlington county, in 1741,⁷ and deceased in 1765; Samuel, who married Letitia Matlack in 1742 (he having deceased in 1750, she married Thomas Hinchman); and Hannah, who married John Ladd in 1732.

⁴ Lib No. 1, 149.

⁵ Lib No. 2, 95.

⁶ Lib. A, 184.

⁷ Lib. No. 5, 63.

Samuel Mickle was one of the first settlers in the village of Haddonfield. He became the owner of a lot next adjoining the tavern property, lately belonging to John Roberts, deceased, and there he erected a dwelling. Timothy Matlack, his wife's father, owned the Roberts's estate and another lot to the east, fronting on the street. Timothy was a shopkeeper, and was so taxed by the township.

Of John Ladd, the father, and John Ladd, the son, much appears in the various records and traditions of their times, which proves them to have been conspicuous persons. They were prominent in the political and religious matters that surrounded them, and the subjects of much hard talk, for which some of their defamers appear in no very enviable position.

As early as 1690, Samuel Taylor puts himself on record, admitting that he had been uttering falsehoods about the elder John Ladd and Sarah his wife, but upon what particular subject these words originated, does not appear. He, however, made a clean breast, and admitted that all his assertions were slander, and, in the form common in those days, the retraction thereof has come down to the present generation. The entire record is copied here to show the manner of so doing,—a practice that has no existence now. It runs as follows:

“This may certify all persons whom it may concern; that, whereas, I, Samuel Taylor, of Gloucester river, within the Province of West Jarsey, Sawyer, have of late publicly reported several false, scandalous, reproachful and detracting speeches, of and concerning John Ladd, of ye same place aforesaid, Yeoman, and Sarah his wife, which were of infamous import, and tending to prove ye said parties to be of unjust dealings and evil and dishonest lives and conversations; therefore I, ye said Samuel Taylor, being moved to ye said report by my precipitate and unadvised passion and anger against ye parties above said, do hereby certify that I herewith repent of, and am unfeignedly sorrowful for my speaking, declaring and publishing any report of such evil tendency aforesaid, and do freely and voluntarily own and acknowledge that I have grossly abused, traduced and wronged ye said John Ladd and Sarah, his wife,

by means of ye false, slanderous and defaming reports and speeches above said.

“In testimony whereof, I have hereunto put my hand this 24th day of June, Anno Domini, 1690.

“SAMUEL TAYLOR.

“Recorded by order of Court, this ye 10th day of August, 1690.

“JOHN READING, Recorder.”⁸

The father was a practical surveyor, and assisted in laying out the city of Philadelphia for William Penn. The compass and chain used by him in this work are now in the possession of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, at its rooms in Philadelphia; they are preserved as a valuable relic of those early times. In compensation for his services, the Patroon offered him thirty pounds, or a square of land, within the limits of his town, but John decided to take the money.

William Penn, surprised at this, said: “Friend John, thou art Ladd by name, and a Ladd in comprehension. Dost thou not know this will become a great city?”

In measuring the distances over the rough soil, and in marking the lines of the streets upon the trees, John could not realize the assertions of Friend William, and concluded that his expectations had gotten the better of his judgment.

While wading about the swamps of Dock creek, and fixing the intersections of Market and Chestnut streets with those of Third and Fourth streets in that vicinity, our surveyor doubtless reflected much upon what had been suggested, and thought the whole scheme was a huge castle in the imagination of his employer.

Time, however, as in all similar cases, has shown which of these entertained the better notions; and, although the one was considered as hazardous in his ideas, yet the other acted as a prudent man, and was influenced by the opinions of those around him. But few of the men that accompanied William Penn to America comprehended the extent and importance of his undertaking. This may account for many of the hindrances

⁸ Lib. G2, 72.

which he met with in carrying out his proposed plans. Not understood in his purposes, he soon became the object of censure and abuse; but, as a Christian and a philanthropist, he has long since come to be appreciated. That he was actuated by the purest of motives and governed by the desire to promote the welfare of his people, at this day, is not questioned.

After the lapse of another half century, John Ladd the son, appears to have been traduced by one of his neighbors in some of their political or religious controversies, and, not resting very comfortable under the same, he required of William Ives a legal admission that he had said some ugly and untruthful things about him. This admission was spread upon the records over his own signature, done in open court, and witnessed by the judges thereof.

"A Knight of the Post" implied that John had been convicted of some petty offence, and been punished at the whipping post, or set in the stocks, a means much in use at that time to vindicate the honor of the commonwealth and to preserve its dignity.

The insinuation that he could not be trusted as a sworn witness, perhaps touched John's pride quite as much as the first charge, and led to the arrest of William Ives and his admission to the falsity of the whole.

This means of the vindication of the character has passed out of use many years since, and to the present generation is unknown. Like the first, the entire record is copied that the reader may draw his own inference therefrom.

WILLIAM IVES'S ACKNOWLEDGMENT, MADE IN OPEN COURT
AT GLO'STER.

"WHEREAS, I, William Ives, of the township of Gloucester, in Gloucester, in the province of West Jersey, yeoman, in the presence of divers creditable persons, inhabitants of the said county, sometime since did falsely and without any cause or reason, speak and say that John Ladd, of the said county was a Knight of the Post, and that I did not know but I might sue one Henry Sparks, but that I could not trust to the said John Ladd's testimony, and I acknowledge likewise, that I

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spoke and said sundry false, scandalous words touching and concerning the reputation and character of him, the said John Ladd.

"Now I do hereby acknowledge and publicly declare that I have wronged and injured the said John Ladd's character by the uttering and speaking the said false scandalous words and sayings, having not the least shadow, colour or foundation for the same; and I do hereby desire forgiveness of the said John Ladd, for the injury done.

"Gloucester, ye 28 October, 1744.

"WILLIAM IVES.

"Witnessed by Ja. Hinchman, one of ye Judges of the Court of Common Pleas at Gloucester, Wm. Harrison, Daniel Mestayer.

"Recorded February 8th, 1744.

"CHARLES READ, Sec."9

Hannah Ladd survived her husband, and, being in possession of his papers, she discovered that one of the books left by Thomas Sharp was among them. It was one of his private records as surveyor and conveyancer, and was considered of such value that an act of the Legislature was passed, that it might be made part of the public records of the Surveyor General's office, where it has remained since that time.

Daniel Mickle deceased in 1712, leaving a will. In that document he mentioned his wife and a child unborn.¹⁰ This posthumous child was a boy, and was named Daniel. His grandmother, Sarah Mickle, provided for his maintenance and education; and also anticipated the needs of the widow.

Archibald Mickle died in 1735, without children; his widow survived him,¹¹ and, in 1736, married Blackinton Ingledon of Philadelphia, to which place she removed with her second husband.

James Mickle deceased the year following the death of Archibald, leaving his widow and two children, Rachel and Jacob.¹²

Ezekiel Siddon, the husband of Sarah, was a butcher, and resided upon a property which he had purchased of Jacob Coffing

⁹ Lib. GH, 41.

¹⁰ Lib. No. 1, 406.

¹¹ Lib. No. 4, 52.

¹² Lib. No. 4, 65.

in 1709. This fronted on the river in Newton township, and is now part of the Mickle estate.¹³ He was the owner of other real estate near his homestead. He died intestate, and but little is known of his family at this time.

Arthur Powell, the husband of Mary, was a son of Arthur Powell, who first settled on Penapaca creek, in Philadelphia county, Pennsylvania.

He came thence from the town of Flushing, Long Island, in the State of New York, where his name, that of his wife Margaret, and those of two sons are set down in the census list made in 1698. According to that record he was of French extraction.

In 1692, he (the father) purchased of Thomas Chaunders, one hundred acres of land in West Jersey, at Mulberry Point, on the sea coast, near Great Egg Harbor.¹⁴ In the same year, he purchased a like number of acres of Robert Turner, at the same place, and thereon he probably settled. The value of the whale fisheries, which were so attractive to the new comers in that region, may have induced his removal from Pennsylvania. He had two sons, Arthur, a carpenter, and Richard, a shoemaker. He died intestate in 1718.¹⁵ In 1716, Arthur (the son) purchased a farm of John Fisher, in Newton township, bounded by Cooper's creek, being part of the original estate of Robert Zane, the first settler, and there he, Arthur, made his home.¹⁶ John Fisher purchased said land of Elnathan Zane, a son of Robert, in 1703, who became owner thereof, by the will of his father, and sold the same when he attained his majority. Arthur and Mary Powell had but three children (two of them daughters): James; Rachel, who married ——— Lewis; and ———, who married ——— Kent. In 1730, he purchased a large tract of land on Timber creek, of John Brown, and also became the owner of other real estate.¹⁷ He died in 1749.¹⁸ In Newton township the family was never very large, yet in other parts of old Gloucester county the name often occurs.

Rachel, who married Benjamin Cooper, died in a short time without children. Benjamin subsequently married Elizabeth

¹³ Lib. A, 144.

¹⁴ Lib. G2, 133, 134.

¹⁵ Lib. A, 178.

¹⁶ Lib. A, 100.

¹⁷ Lib. G2, 26.

¹⁸ Gloucester Files, 1749.

Burcham, widow of Jacob, and daughter of Samuel Cole. The issue of this marriage was numerous, and as follows: Joseph, who married Elizabeth Haines; James, who married Sarah Ervin and Hannah Saunders; Samuel, who married Prudence Brown; Benjamin, who married Elizabeth Hopewell; William, who married Ann Folwell; Isaac; and Elizabeth, who married George Budd.

Benjamin Cooper was a son of Joseph, and a grandson of the first William; which William conveyed to the first Joseph, two hundred and twelve acres of land in 1709, who also conveyed the same to his son Benjamin in 1728.¹⁹ This included the ferry at Cooper's Point, which Benjamin conveyed to his son Samuel, with about thirty-eight acres of land adjoining, in 1769.²⁰

Of the division of Archibald Mickle's original purchase, as made between Archibald, James and Joseph in 1727, Joseph's portion passed into the Kaighn family; and Isaac Mickle, senior, in later years, became the owner of Archibald's share and James's also, and conveyed them to his nephew, Isaac Mickle, junior, in 1780.

The land between the south line of the original Mickle estate and Newton creek was located by Robert Turner (in 1687), and by Richard Arnold (in 1702). Richard Arnold purchased of Robert Turner, and conveyed the two tracts of four hundred and twenty acres to Martin Jarvis in 1700.²¹ In 1702, Martin Jarvis sold two hundred and eight acres from off the eastern part of the tract to John Wright, and four years after conveyed the remainder to Jacob Coffing. After various conveyances, too numerous to name in this connexion, the larger part of the Turner and Arnold surveys became, in 1790, the estate of Isaac Mickle, junior, who re-surveyed the same in that year.²²

In tracing the genealogy of this family, the want of heirs in the male line is constantly occurring, which frequently leads to doubt, and occasionally to error. Like the Coopers, they remained upon the original estate, and held tenaciously to the acres of which Archibald first became the owner; in some

¹⁹ Lib. AE, 205.

²⁰ Lib. AE, 213.

²¹ Basse's Book, 26.

²² Lib. U, 443, O. S. G.

generations increasing the family name, and, in others, finding it reduced to but few persons; until, within the last decade, it has passed entirely away. No portion of the land at this time remains in the blood of the Mickles; and already the old estate is in the hands of strangers, traversed by avenues, and divided into town lots. Another decade may see the fishing grounds covered with piers and docks, the busy mart of commerce, and without a vestige of its present rural beauty.

Isaac Mickle, deceased, author of the "Reminiscences of Old Gloucester," was a descendant in the paternal line of this family. That he was a zealous and reliable antiquarian, no better evidence can be adduced than the book just named. In this work, his industry and good judgment are manifest; he has condensed and arranged many facts touching the early history of West New Jersey, not before noticed. Accepted as reliable on all subjects there treated, no library intended to illustrate the history of our State, is complete without it, and, as the desire to become better acquainted with this subject increases, so will this book become more appreciated. With all such as are seeking knowledge in this direction, the name of Isaac Mickle will be held in grateful remembrance.