

JUDGE JAMES MOORE AND MAJOR JAMES MOORE,
OF CHESTER COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA.

BY W. S. LONG, M.D.

My desire in presenting sketches of these gentlemen, father and son, is to preserve as far as possible from the oblivion which so rapidly envelops the men and events of the preceding century, the few remaining incidents in the lives of men who, occupying the highest social position, gave years of service to their country at the times of her greatest need. The pen of the historian has barely recorded their names, which the thoughtless may deem a reproach. In the dusty volumes of the "Colonial Records" and "Pennsylvania Archives" the persevering delver after dry facts will find that official mention has more fully presented their claims to the passing attention at least of posterity.

The first of the family of whom we have information was William Moore, who removed from Scotland to the north of Ireland, and was one of the defenders of Derry in 1689. He had a number of sons and daughters. Judge Moore, who was born in 1730, may have been a younger son, but I believe he was a grandson of this man. Tradition tells us that he had eight brothers. He was the first of the family to emigrate to America, and the only one of his generation. He was then about nineteen years of age. At different times eight nephews and one or more nieces were welcomed to his home, and from thence started out to make their fortunes, and from them are descended many who have occupied distinguished positions in public or private life. These are all descended from William Moore, of Derry, without any missing link in the chain of descent, or uncertainty, as in the case of their uncle. One nephew, Samuel Moore, of

Lancaster County, was a captain in the Pennsylvania Line, and was grandfather of General John Fulton Reynolds, the hero of Gettysburg, and of Rear-Admiral William Reynolds. Another nephew, Robert Moore, was engaged in one of the Irish rebellions, and only succeeded in escaping to the United States after hair-breadth escapes from the English soldiers. At one time he was hidden for several days in an oven. Two fine silver-mounted holster pistols, which were carried by him, are preserved in one branch of our family.

James Moore, Sr., settled in Chester County, and in time became possessed of several large farms bordering on Springton and Brandywine Manors. In 1752 he married Elizabeth, daughter of Judge James and Rachel (Creswell) Whitehill, of Pequea, Lancaster County. She came of a good Scotch-Irish family, one that furnished many men of mark in the early annals of our country. Two of her brothers were members of the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and three were members of Congress between 1803 and 1814. The family was represented in the Committee of Safety, Council of Censors, General Assembly, or Congress, almost continuously from 1776 to 1814.

Mrs. Moore was a lady of great refinement and sensibility. She was active in assisting the poor and wounded soldiers of our suffering army. She was possessed of great personal bravery, such as is frequently seen in persons of her character in times of danger, but which may remain unsuspected in peaceful days. She was considered a very proud woman. When severe trials came upon her she remained silent, and no tradition remains of any complaint to any human being. After her husband's death she had total loss of sight, and was greatly comforted in being able to repeat many passages from the Bible and hymns. Of the latter her favorite was, "Consider all my sorrows, Lord, and thy deliverance send." She died June 25, 1815, aged eighty-two years.

James Moore, Sr., at a meeting of the Executive Council at Philadelphia, May 23, 1770, was appointed justice of the General Quarter Sessions of the Peace, and of the Court of