

COL. TIMOTHY MATLACK

PATRIOT AND SOLDIER

A Paper Read Before the Gloucester County
Historical Society at the Old Tavern
House, Haddonfield, N. J.
April 14, 1908



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I N, presenting before the Gloucester County Historical Society a paper on Col. Timothy Matlack, would remark that in the preparation of it and the study of his life I have been unable to find any detailed account of him either in print or manuscript. Brief notices have appeared from time to time in our magazines and encyclopedias but these have been confined mainly to a list of the official positions he held. This seems all the more remarkable when we consider the fact that during the Revolution no man then knew more of the history being made in Pennsylvania and few took greater part in the making of it than he—all of it he saw, part of it he was. His commanding figure was a common sight on the streets of Philadelphia and Lancaster, and he was constantly in the lime-light of publicity. In addition to this, with the exception of Charles Thomson, few knew more of the inside history and the transactions of the Continental Congress during the earlier years of the war. It may well be asked,—are not Republics ungrateful?

It is not within the scope of this paper to go into any details of the history of the time, only so far as to show his position in it. My object is to show Timothy Matlack the man, as nearly as I can.

The grandfather of the subject of our sketch, William Matlack was a native of Nottinghamshire, England. He was one of the passengers on the Kent and it is said that he was the first of them to set foot on land at Burlington where they eventually settled. He came as a servant to the Commissioners as did several others who afterwards rose to local distinction in the Colony. He was born in 1648. He was a carpenter by trade at which he worked in the early days of the Colony.

In 1681 there came hither from Warwickshire, England on board the "Paradise", Mary Hancock. She came in "free" and lived for a time, perhaps until her marriage, in the family of Daniel Wills. In 1682 she married William Matlack. In 1684, having served his time, William bought of Thomas Oliver one hundred acres of land between the branches of the Pensauken Creek, the consideration mentioned in the deed being four years service and £3. "current country pay".* Here he settled and here nearly all of his nine children were born. Subsequently, he purchased several other tracts of land and eventually became owner of more than one thousand acres. The date of his death is unknown.†

His son Timothy, father of the subject of this sketch was born at Pensauken, March 8, 1695. He was twice married; his first wife being Mary Haines and his second Martha, daughter of Henry and Elizabeth Burr and widow of Josiah Haines. Timothy and Martha were married 1st mo. 1730. He bought a tract of land in Waterford Township, Gloucester Co. in 1711 and built a house thereon and like his brothers engaged in farming. Having a desire however for a mercantile occupation he in 1726 sold his farm and removed to Haddonfield. He purchased a lot of ground and built a house upon the site of this historic spot where we are now gathered.‡ Here he opened a store. At that time one Sarah Norris was doing a lucrative business in the same line.§ He appears to have been successful as we find him later the owner of a malthouse, distillery and brewery, besides owning several vacant lots.|| Tradition says that he also kept tavern here but I have not been able to substantiate it. He was a freeholder in 1735 and

* The original document in the writer's possession.

† Asa Matlack Papers.

‡ John Clement Papers.

§ John Clement Papers.

|| New Jersey Archives, Vol. XII, p. 255.

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at a town meeting in 1737 "he was directed to build a town pound on his own land and have it done in six months time. The builder was promoted to the position of pound keeper to take care of all estrays.* In February 1745 he sold out at Haddonfield and removed to Philadelphia and in 1746 we find him settled there, "against the Jersey Market a little above the post office on Market Street at the sign of the two sugar loaves marked T. M. in gold letters, where any person may be supplied with European and West Indian goods cheap for ready money or short credit."†

Continued success induced him to engage again in the brewery business but here fortune deserted him, and although he struggled heroically, he became financially involved. His creditors, among whom there is reason to believe were some Quakers, proceeded (to use the language of an old chronicler) "to tear him to pieces". He did not receive the consideration and forbearance of the Meeting that he felt he had a right to expect and the bitter feeling that his sons entertained for the Quakers as a body may be traced primarily to this. † His reverses no doubt hastened his death which occurred in 1752. In his will, he pathetically refers to his reverses and leaves the wreck of his business to his "son-in-law Reuben Haines, the son of his last wife by her first marriage to care for his younger children. The charge was accepted and Reuben Haines became a wealthy man. Timothy Matlack was a pious man and a staid member of the Society of Friends. To him we owe a large part of the information we have in regard to the early history of the Matlack family he having written an account of it which afterwards came into the possession of his son Timothy Matlack, our subject.§

* John Clement Papers.

† New Jersey Archives Vol. XII p. 311.

‡ Asa Matlack Papers.

§ Asa Matlack Papers.

Genealogical Notes of the Family of TIMOTHY MATLACK

William Matlack, b. 1648; d. —; married Mary Hancock, (b. 1664; d. 11, 20, 1728.) at Burlington, N. J. in 1682.

ISSUE

John, b. —; d. —; married. (1st) Hannah Horner, dau. of Isaac and Lydia, 3, 20, 1708 and (2nd) Mary Lee, dau. of Francis and —; 1721.

George, b. —; d. —; m. (1st) Mary Foster, 9, 16, 1709 and (2nd) Mary, nee' Gurnell, widow of John Hancock 8, —, 1729.

Mary, b. —; d. —; m. (1st) Jonathan Haines son of John and Esther, 1, —, 1711 and (2nd) Daniel Morgan, 5, —, 1731.

William, b. 2, 12, 1690; d. 7, 25, 1730; m. Ann Antrum dau. of John and Frances, 9, 17, 1713.

Joseph, b. —; d. —; m. Rebecca Haines, dau. of John and Esther, 6, —, 1722.

Richard, b. —; d. —; m. (1st) Rebecca Haines, dau. of Richard and Mary, 11, —, 1721 and (2nd) Mary, widow of Joseph Cole and dau. of Benjamin Wood 10, —, 1745.

Timothy, b. 3, 8, 1695; d. 6, 18, 1752; m. (1st) Mary Haines, dau. of Richard and Mary, 3, —, 1720 and (2nd) Martha, widow of Josiah Haines and dau. of Henry and Elizabeth Burr, 1, 21, 1730.

Sarah, b. 1704; d. —; m. Carlisle Haines son of Richard and Mary, 10, —, 1721.

Jane, b. —; d. —; m. — Irwin.

X
Timothy Matlack, (*) son of William and Mary,
m. (1st) Mary Haines, b. 12, 2, 1701; d. 12, 11,
1728; dau. of Richard and Mary, 3,—, 1720.

ISSUE

Rebecca, b. 2, 5, 1722; d. —; m. Isaac Warren, 4,—, 1739.
Maria, b. 5, 13, 1724; d. 1, 31, 1752; m. (1st) Samuel Mick-
le, 6,—, 1742 and (2nd) Thomas Hinchman, 4, 2,
1750.
Abraham, b. 11, 5, 1726; d. —; m. Job Siddons 1744.
Abel, b. 11, 18, 1728; d. 12, 11, 1728.

Timothy Matlack, m. (2nd) Martha, widow of
Josiah Haines and dau. of Henry and Elizabeth
Burr, 1, 12, 1730.

ISSUE

Stoyl, b. 12, 6, 1730; d. 5, 1, 1759; m. David Cooper son of
John and Ann, 3, 23, 1757.
Elizabeth, b. 4, 12, 1734; d. 6, 17, 1793; m. John Chandler,
8, 10, 1758.
TIMOTHY, b. 3, 26, 1736; d. 4, 14, 1829; m. Ellen Yarnall
and Elizabeth Capper.
Timothy, b. 6, 26, 1738; d. 1796; m. Sarah Shute son of John
and Martha, 12, 20, 1770.
Sarah, b. 12, 8, 1743; d. —; m. Mary Shute, 11, 12, 1766.
Walter, b. 10, 7, 1745; d. —; m. Mary Hawxhurst, 3, 6, 1768.
Joseph, b. 1, 4, 1748; d. 6,—, 1802; m. Elizabeth Musgrove
5, 15, 1771.

* Timothy Matlack was named after his uncle Timothy Hancock, his
mother's brother. Timothy Hancock came with his sister from Brailes,
Worcestershire, England and settled on an hundred acre tract of land in
Chesler Township, Burlington Co., N. J. adjoining the plantation of
William Matlack.

TIMOTHY Matlack, son of Timothy and Martha
m. Ellen Yornall, b.—: d. 7, 16, 1791;
dau. of Mordecai and Catharine (Meredith)
Yarnall, at Arch Street Meeting, Philadelphia,
Penna., 10, 5, 1748.

ISSUE

William, b. 8, —, 1759; d. 1797; m. Hannah Carmalt.
Mordecai, b. 1761, d. 1778.
Sibyl, b. 2, 11, 1764; d. 2, 18, 1816; m. Joseph Stretch.
Catharine, b. 4, 8, 1767; d. —; m. William Murray.
Martha, b. 10, 16, 1770; d. 8, 14, 1826; m. Guy Bryan.

Timothy Matlack m. (2nd) Elizabeth Capper,
widow of Capt. Norris Capper, at Christ
Church, Philadelphia, Pa., 8, 17, 1767.

NO ISSUE

Elizabeth Capper Matlack was the sister of David Clay-
poole, the printer, and is said to have been a lineal descendant
of Oliver Cromwell. Norris Capper was a Captain in the
Pennsylvania State Navy. He married Elizabeth Claypool
at St. Peter's Church, Philadelphia, Penna., 11, 19, 1774.
After the death of Col. Matlack his widow went to live with
her son James Capper, then a merchant living in Philadelphia.
She was born about 1751.

WILLIAM MATLACK

William Matlack, son of Timothy and Ellen, m.
Hannah Carmalt, dau. of James and —, at
First Baptist Church, Philadelphia, by Rev.
Wm. Rogers, 3, 22, 1787.

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ISSUE

Timothy, b. —; d. —.

James, b. 2, 14, 1791; d. 6, 24, 1849; m. Elizabeth Ristine.

William Matlack was a watch-maker by trade and at the time of his marriage he lived in Charleston, S. C. He died in Philadelphia in 1796 and was buried in the Free Quaker burying-ground. His wife, Hannah was the grand-daughter of Thomas Say, a man of note in his day. She died in 1793 and was buried in the Say family burying-ground in the rear of Nos. 50 and 52 North 3rd Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

James Matlack, son of William and Hannah, m. Elizabeth Ristine (born in Germany) dau. of John and Louisa, by Rev. Samuel Helfenstein in Philadelphia.

ISSUE

Timothy Carmalt, b. 5, 6, 1812; m. Susanna Upperman

John Ristine, b. 11, 27, 1814; m. Elizabeth Keyser.

James, b. 10, 8, 1817, m. Rachel Pidgeon.

William, b. 10, 8, 1819; m. Catherine Englehart.

Thomas Bryan, b. 3, 31, 1822; m. Amanda Lash.

Henry Bryan, b. 6, 30, 1824; m. Sarah Corliss.

Joseph Ristine, b. 6, 6, 1827; m. Alisanna C. Wetzel.

Samuel Bryan, b. 5, 1, 1829; m. Mary Ann Fry.

Louisa Ristine, b. 3, 11, 1835; d. 12, 30, 1870; m. George W. Wetzel.

Timothy Carmalt Matlack, son of James and Elizabeth, m. Susanna Upperman, dau. of Charles and Mary, at First Presbyterian Church, Philadelphia, by Rev. George Chandler, 7, 25, 1833.

ISSUE

Mary Elizabeth, b. 5, 19, 1834.

John, b. 9, 21, 1836; m. Sarah Ristine.

Timothy, b. 4, 6, 1846; d. 9, 8, 1850.

John Adam Matlack, son of Timothy and Sarah Ristine, dau. of Henry and Margaret in Philadelphia, 8, 31, 1862.

ISSUE

Elizabeth H., b. 8, 12, 1863.

Sarah, b. 1, 10, 1866,

Clara, b. 7, 12, 1868; d. 5, 14, 1886.

Timothy C., b. 4, 8, 1874; m. Emily Clouds, 1, 22, 1894.

Issue: John A., b. 9, 16, 1899.

John, b. 5, 11, 1874; d. 12, 17, 1874.

Mary, b. 12, 5, 1875.

John Ristine Matlack, Son of James and Elizabeth Keyser, (born 9, 14, 1819; died 12, 16, 1901.) dau. of Nicholas and Ann, 6, 1835.

ISSUE

Emma, b. 3, 4, 1837; d. 1865; m. Andrew Houck. No issue.

James, b. 3, 9, 1840; d. 3, 11, 1907; single, died from injuries received in military service during the Civil War.

Annie, b. 10, 25, 1842; m. Joseph L. Lewis of Darby, Pa.

Timothy, b. 1, 27, 1845. killed at Cold Harbor 5, 30, 1864.

John, b. 8, 18, 1847; d. 3, 11, 1898.

Samuel, b. 8, 27, 1850; d. 3, 7, 1903.

Edward, b. 3, 11, 1853; m. Levina Glacken.

Andrew H., b. 9, 15, 1857; m. Annie L. France.

Issue: Elsie.

Harry, b. 3, 11, 1861; d. 2, 18, 1885.

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