

NELSON'S  
Biographical Cyclopedia  
OF  
NEW JERSEY



PUBLISHED UNDER THE EDITORIAL SUPERVISION OF

WILLIAM NELSON

Editor New Jersey Archives;

Author of Indians of New Jersey;

Corresponding Secretary New Jersey Historical Society

VOLUME I

NEW YORK  
EASTERN HISTORICAL PUBLISHING SOCIETY

1913

45

## JOHN S. McMASTER

---

**J**OHNS STEVENSON McMASTER, lawyer, of Jersey City, New Jersey, was born at Pocomoke, Maryland, December 29, 1859. His parents were John Thomas Bayly McMaster, M. D., and Elizabeth Grace Stevenson. Dr. McMaster was a Union-Democrat during the Civil War; served one term in the Maryland Senate; was postmaster and Collector of Internal Revenue; was first president of the railroad to Pocomoke, now extended to Cape Charles, Virginia, and practised his profession of physician and surgeon in Pocomoke for forty years preceding his death in 1889.

Mr. McMaster is Highland Scotch (Buchanan Clan) on his father's side, and Lowland Scotch on his mother's side. Some of his ancestors came from Scotland to Ireland, and thence to the Eastern shores of Maryland and Virginia, more than two hundred years ago. His great-grandfather, Rev. Samuel McMaster, came from Scotland, and was pastor at the same time of the Presbyterian churches at Snow Hill, Pitts Creek and Rehoboth, Maryland, (his only charge) for thirty-seven years (1774-1811) during the Revolutionary War period. These are the oldest regularly organized Presbyterian churches in America.

Mr. McMaster was educated at the Pocomoke High School and Delaware College at Newark, Delaware, and was graduated from Lafayette College, Easton, Pennsylvania, in 1883, with the degree of A. B., being Latin salutatorian, and later secured the degree of A. M. He taught in the High School at Pocomoke for two years (1878-1880) and also taught mathematics and the natural sciences for five years (1883-1888) in the Morris Academy, Morristown, New Jersey, and whilst there studied law with Vice-Chancellor Henry C. Pitney, and in 1885 at the University of Virginia. In June, 1888, at Trenton, New Jersey, he was admitted to the Bar



John S. McMaster

as attorney, and in June, 1891, as counsellor, and later appointed a Special Master in Chancery and a Supreme Court Commissioner.

From June, 1888, until November, 1889, he practised law at Dover, New Jersey, as an associate of Justice Mahlon Pitney, now of the United States Supreme Court. He served as private secretary (Democratic) to President George T. Werts, of the Senate, in 1889, and in a similar capacity to Speaker William C. Heppenheimer, of the House, in 1890, and to President Robert Adrain, of the Senate, in 1891 and 1892, and to Governor George T. Werts during his term (1893-1896) as Governor of New Jersey.

He came to Jersey City in November, 1889, and has since then practised alone except for seven years (1892-1899) when he was in partnership with Asa W. Dickinson and Charles D. Thompson, under the firm name of Dickinson, Thompson & McMaster. His practice is largely in the Court of Chancery and in the management of estates. His offices are at No. 1 Exchange Place, Jersey City. He has held a number of important receiverships.

He has travelled extensively in this country and in Europe. He is a member of the Phi Beta Kappa Society of New York City; the Washington Association of Morristown, New Jersey; the Original Research Society of Maryland; National Geographic Society; the New Jersey Historical Society, and the Presbyterian Historical Society, of Philadelphia. He is an elder in the First Presbyterian Church, of Jersey City, and an ex-president of the Children's Friend Society, of Jersey City. He has written and published several historical sketches of various prominent people and families, mainly of Maryland and Virginia, and concerning the early Presbyterian churches in his native locality, familiarly known as the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia and the Land of Evergreens. He has made many public addresses on various topics, and made a number of stump speeches advocating the election of Hon. Charles C. Black (Democrat) as Governor of New Jersey on the Equal Taxation issue. He lately made one of the principal addresses at the

unveiling of the monument in Virginia to Rev. Francis Makemie, chief founder of the Presbyterian church in America. He is the author of "Sketch of Rev. Samuel McMaster," and a like "Sketch of John S. Stevenson," and articles entitled "Makemieland," "Land of Evergreens," "Purpose of the Old Home Prize," and "The Head, Hand and Heart Method;" all of which articles have attained wide circulation. He is also an associate editor of this work—"History of Newark."

On May 15, 1894, he was married, at Pocomoke, Maryland, to Louisa Jane Dennis, daughter of Hon. Samuel K. Dennis and his wife, Sally Crisfield. He has two sons, John Dennis McMaster and Alfred Dennis McMaster.

