

The Philadelphia Evening Telegraph
(April 12, 1902)

COL. M'KEE'S WILL

**Instrument is Deposited with Register – No Time Fixed for
Hearing in Contest Proceedings.**

The testament of John McKee, the colored millionaire, which bequeaths almost his entire fortune to the founding of a naval college for white and colored orphans, to be conducted by a Board of Managers, the naming of whom shall be done by Catholic clergymen, after the death of his daughter, Mrs. Abbie A. P. Syphax, and other relatives, was deposited with Register of Wills Singer today, and will be kept in the vault of that office in the City Hall until the contest proceedings instituted by the daughter are inquired into. The document is quite a lengthy one, the various devises contained therein having been published in these columns yesterday.

No time has yet been fixed for a hearing in the matter by Register Singer, and will not be until after that official consults with the attorneys interested in the proceedings. It is thought, however, that the matter will be inquired into sometime during the latter part of next week. The grounds upon which the caveators will endeavor to have the wills set aside as lack of testamentary capacity to make a will, and may also include alleged undue influences.

A. R. Burr, who had long acted in the capacity of secretary to Mr. McKee states that with the real estate and the undeveloped mining properties located in Virginia, the value of the estate will reach upwards of \$4,000,000. "Less than a year ago," said Mr. Burr, "J. Pierpont Morgan and a syndicate of New York financiers offered Colonel McKee \$3,500,000 for the land which he owned in West Virginia, but the offer was refused."

The following is list of the properties comprising the estate: West Virginia, Illinois, and Kentucky mining and farming lands, 200,000 acres. Developed farming lands near McKee City, N.J., 4,500 acres. Lands at Croydon, Pa., 66 acres, houses in this city, estimated at 51 at Cumberland and Commerce streets, 5 at Garrett street, between twenty-third and twenty-fourth streets; 16 at Bainbridge and Twenty-second streets, 13 on Lombard between Broad and Thirteenth streets; 3 on Richmond street, 10 on West street, 3 on Callowhill, near Broad street; 60 on Stone House lane, and 22 acres of land.