

**The Philadelphia Evening Telegraph**  
(April 14, 1902)

**COL. M'KEE MEANT TO DISINHERIT FAMILY**

---

**Another Will Dated 1884 Left Estate to Found Military School**

---

A new chapter in the McKee will saga has been opened by the finding of a will dated in 1885, by which the testator makes the same disposition as the will of two years ago, against which the caveat has been filed by relatives.

The old will was deposited with the Girard Trust Company, and A.A. Johnson, Vice-president of the Company, has placed it with the Register of Wills. The Girard Trust Company is named as executor of this will, and the entire estate except for a few bequests, is left to found a military school.

It would seem from this that the colored millionaire never intended to leave his fortune to his family, and also that the idea of devising his estate after the manner of Stephen Girard had been firmly fixed in his mind for many years.

This earlier will would prove a strong factor for the executors of the latest will in the contest, and will without doubt be made use of to rebut any testimony as to undue influence, testamentary incapacity, etc.

The will of 1899 was left with Colonel McKee's papers in his desk and found by his grandson, John McKee Syphax, the day before his funeral.

Under the Act of Assembly, persons who file caveats protesting against the probate of a testamentary paper are required [sic] to enter security before the Register of Wills to the amount of from \$500 to \$5,000 at the direction of that official, the same to be entered within a period of ten days after filing the protest. No security has yet been entered in this instance and if it is not forthcoming on Friday next, when the ten days have expired, Register Singer will have no other alternative but to dismiss the caveat and admit the disputed document to probate. If the required security is entered the Register will then fix a time for an inquiry as to the validity of the instrument on the grounds that Colonel McKee did not possess sufficient mental capacity to make a testamentary disposition at the time the paper was executed, and that undue influence was exerted upon him in the execution.

If the contest is proceeded with it will be necessary for the register, if the counsel in the matter will agree, or if not, to make a selection himself, to appoint an administrator pendente [sic] lite, as the estate comprises considerable realty, the rentals from which must be collected when the same becomes due. Otherwise the estate is likely to suffer. The will executed in 1885 and deposited with the Register for safe keeping will be kept in the vault of that official's office until after the later dated writing is disposed of.