

PHILADELPHIA EVENING TELEGRAPH
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Ev. Telegraph

M'KEE'S WILL NOT CONTESTED

Heirs of Millionaire Withdrew
Caveat and Institution Pro-
vided for Will Be Built.

COMPROMISE IS EFFECTED

The heirs of the late Colonel John McKee, the negro millionaire, who left his entire fortune to be devoted to charitable uses under control of Archbishop Ryan and the clergy of the Roman Catholic Church, have decided not to contest the will. The caveat, which was filed with Register of Wills Singer on April 11, several days after the Colonel's death, to prevent the registration and execution of the will, was withdrawn this morning by ex-Judge Gordon and T. J. Minton, attorneys for Abbie A. P. Sypax and B. McKee Minton, daughter and grandson of the dead millionaire. It is said that the withdrawal of the caveat was the result of a compromise reached by the executors and the contestants, whereby the latter are to receive a share of the estate.

Joseph P. McCullen, one of the executors named in the will, to-day qualified for his position, but Archbishop Ryan, the other executor, has as yet failed to do so.

The will of Colonel McKee greatly surprised his relatives and friends. Though all his lifetime known to be a member of the Lombard Street Central Presbyterian Church, he left the bulk of his fortune in charge of the Catholic Church. Now that the contest has been dropped, the will becomes operative, and plans are already under way to carry out its provisions.

The entire estate is devised in trust to Archbishop Ryan and Joseph P. McCullen, for the founding of a home for white and colored orphan boys. The home that the will provides for is to be erected on a farm near Croydon, after the death of his daughter and grandsons. The institution is, in effect, to be a counterpart of Girard College. The will provides that the inmates shall be given a sound English education and a naval training similar to that given in the Government school at Annapolis, with a view to fitting them for service in the navy.

The control of the institution is to be vested in a Board of Governors of ten members, to be chosen by the pastors of the Roman Catholic churches of Philadelphia. This Board is to elect the President and other officers of the home, which is to be known as the Colonel John McKee College.

In addition to providing for this institution, the will bequeathes to the Bishop of the diocese a tract of twenty acres near Red Bank, N. J., as sites for a Roman Catholic church, schoolhouse and convent. This bequest is to be operative upon the death of the daughter and granddaughter of Colonel McKee. The estate is to be held in trust during the life of Mrs. Sypax and the grandsons, and the accumulation is to be devoted to erecting college buildings. The principal is to remain untouched as an endowment fund for the institution.