

JOHN MORTON FAMILY TREE

John Morton (1724 to 1777)
Ann Justice (Justis, Justic) (wife, 1732 to 1799)

When Anne Justis married John Morton in 1745, or 1746, she probably had little idea of the honors the future held in store for her youthful husband, even though he was already looked upon in their little community as a young man with a promising future.

They were of neighboring farmer folk in Chester County, now Delaware County, Pennsylvania. Both were of Swedish extraction, their forebears having been of that tide of immigration which poured into the "lower counties" about the opening of the eighteenth century. John Morton cultivated his own patrimonial acres, but was able to alternate his farm labors with surveying new lands, having been taught that branch of mathematics along with "accounting" by his step-father, John Sketchley, an English gentleman who married the Widow Morton while John was yet an infant in arms. We find nothing more of Anne Justis for many years. Her husband, grown wealthy, seems to have won the respect and confidence of his neighbours, for he was commissioned as Justice of the Peace in 1764, and within a few months elected to the Provincial Legislature, of which body he was Speaker for a number of years. Later he was High Sheriff of the county for three years, afterward presiding judge of the Provincial Court, and then one of the judges of the Supreme Court.

During all these years Anne Justis was looking after their estate and rearing their family of children, of whom there were eight, three sons and five daughters. In 1774, Mr. Morton was sent as delegate to the Congress of Colonies in Philadelphia, and was re-elected in 1775 and again in 1776. It was the vote of John Morton, when the delegates of Pennsylvania were equally divided, that broke the tie and threw the voice of the delegation for independence. The labors and responsibilities of his career through this trying period broke down his health, and in April 1777, he died in the fifty-fourth year of his age.

The surviving children of John Morton were as follows: Aaron, the eldest, married Frances, daughter of Richard and Elizabeth Paschall Annitt. They lived in Delaware County for several years and afterward emigrated to Ohio. Sketchley, the second child, became a major in the Pennsylvania line of the Continental Army; he married Rebecca, daughter of John and Mary Neidermar Taylor and died in 1795. Dr. John became a surgeon in the Continental Army and died while a prisoner of war on the British prison ship *Falmouth* in New York harbor. The late John S. Morton of Springfield had in his possession a letter written by Dr. Morton to his father while he was a prisoner, in which he said they were "almost starved and could eat brickbats if they could get them." He died unmarried. Concerning Sarah and Lydia, nothing definite can be learned. Elizabeth died of consumption, unmarried. Mary married Charles Justis of Kingessing, and Ann, the youngest, married, in 1784, Captain John Davis of Chester County, who had fought through the Revolutionary War as an officer of the Pennsylvania line.