

OKELY, OF BALTIMORE, MD.

John Okely, born in Baltimore 1785, was a son of the Commissary General. After the death of his father in 1792, the property was divided between himself and an only sister, Elizabeth, who married William Buck. The mother, who had been Margaret Moore, the widow of Mathew Graeff, passed away just three years before the death of her second husband.

John Okely's share of the estate consisted of a goodly sum of money, and land on the Conestoga river. The money was invested in business enterprises in Baltimore, Md., and Washington, D. C. He also owned merchant vessels, but during the war of 1812-14, his financial interests suffered greatly by land and sea.

One of his greatest losses, and one which John Okely felt keenly, was some rascally treatment of Stephen Girard. There are those still living who will not be surprised at the intimation that John Okely's descendants might have been many dollars richer if it had not been for Stephen Girard, the founder of the College for Orphan Boys, located in Philadelphia, at a cost of \$2,000,000.*

Becoming disheartened under repeated discouragements, John Okely finally gathered together the remnants of his fortune and went into partnership with his brothers-in-law,

*One of Girard's biographers says of him, "Although he could sometimes act the part of a benefactor to the community, it is said he never had a friend."