

1854. He attended the public schools, and graduated from the high school June 23, 1871, delivering the Greek oration at graduating. In the following fall he entered Tufts College, from which he graduated A. B. in 1875. He taught at the Hitchcock Free Academy, at Brimfield, one year, and was principal of the Ware high school one year. While teaching he devoted his spare time to the reading of law, and in 1877 entered the office of Stearns, Knowlton & Long, in Springfield, and was admitted to the Hampden county bar in October, 1878. Soon after this Mr. Stearns removed to Chicopee, and there Mr. McClench also went, and they occupied the same office and were associated together for the eleven years next following. In 1889 Mr. McClench removed his office to Springfield, still retaining his residence in Chicopee, and became a member of the firm of Wells, McClench & Barnes, his partners being Judge Gideon Wells and Jonathan Barnes. This arrangement continued till 1893, and in January of that year F. H. Gillett, member of congress from the second Massachusetts district, and W. W. McClench became partners in the law under the firm name of Gillett & McClench, and were associated in that relation till 1898. From 1893 to 1898 Mr. McClench was associated with Judge Wells as associate counsel for the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company. At the latter date Mr. McClench was appointed to succeed Judge Wells, at his death, as general counsel for the company, and has since discharged the duties of that position. He was elected a director in 1899, second vice-president in 1905, and October 28, 1908, was elected president upon the death of John A. Hall. His rise as a lawyer and business man to two of the highest positions in the Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Company is due to his natural ability, thorough training, laborious industry, staunch integrity and unfailing reliability.

Mr. McClench cast his first vote for the nominees of the Republican party, and has filled many public offices. For several years he was chairman of the school board of Chicopee, and also a member of the board of registrars of voters. He was associate justice of the police court of Chicopee for some years, and in 1890 was the Democratic nominee for mayor, but was defeated by an older man. The following year he received the nomination of both the great parties and was unanimously elected the second mayor of the city. In 1884 Mr. McClench joined the Democratic party. A

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warm admirer of Grover Cleveland, he supported him for election upon the stump, and until 1892 was a staunch adherent of that party. In the latter year he could not conscientiously indorse the free silver platform, and has since given his support to the Republican party. He has participated actively in all the state and national campaigns since he became a voter. In 1892 he was the Democratic candidate for district attorney for the Western District, comprising Hampden and Berkshire counties. He is a member of many business and other organizations, among which are the following: Director of Chapin National Bank, and Hampden Trust Company; member and ex-president of Springfield Board of Trade; member of Phi Beta Kappa and Zeta Psi societies, the American Historical Association, the American Academy of Political and Social Science, and the American Bar Association. By appointment of the supreme judicial court of Massachusetts he was a delegate to the Universal Congress of Lawyers and Jurists at St. Louis in 1904. For several years he was a bar examiner. He is a member of the Republican Club; Chicopee Lodge, Free and Accepted Masons; and for two years was a member of the Supreme Lodge, Knights of Honor, as a representative from Massachusetts. He is connected with the Unitarian Society, of Springfield.

William W. McClench married, December 8, 1880, Katherine Amanda Hill, born in Chicopee, December 8, 1858, only daughter of Sylvester Bradley and Catherine A. (Blauvelt) Hill, of Chicopee. The father, born in Alexandria, New Hampshire, is one of the most prominent business men in the place, and for many years was connected, as contractor and otherwise, with the Ames Manufacturing Company; the mother was born in Nyack, New York. Mrs. McClench is a member of the Woman's Club, the Cosmopolitan Club, and is regent of Mercy Warren Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The children of this union are: 1. Marion Hill, born December 5, 1881; graduate of Smith College, class of 1903, president of the College Club, Springfield, and member of Mercy Warren Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. 2. Cora Christine, born November 3, 1886; also attended Smith College; is a member of Mercy Warren Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution. 3. Donald, born March 9, 1895.

This name has been variously spelled in England, Corlas, Corillesse and Corlies. The patronymic originally belonged to a noble family in Belgium, and appeared in Great Britain about the middle of the seventeenth century, when Jean, Count de Corlies, was sent into exile for his religious opinions. John Fuller, in his tract called "Sacrifices made for God—His Truth," published in 1654, names the Count de Corlies as among the illustrious of the reformers of that time. How this brave protestant was regarded in his native land may be seen by this extract from "L'Histoire de Liege," par le Prince Charles de Ligne:

"The indiscreet countenance afforded by the Count de Corlies to the enemies of the Church, who at this time sought to put down the Catholic faith under the wicked presumption of 'reformation to its rites and doctrines,' left no doubt upon the minds of those wise men conducting the affairs of the country, that De Corlies had secretly adopted the damning heresies of those misguided people. Those who were well affected to our Church, could not be brought to look upon De Corlies but as the descendant of the renowned Reginald de Corlies who so nobly and faithfully preached the Cross at the Second Crusade, and was standard-bearer of the Brabant Knights at the siege of Jerusalem. That the descendants of him whose very armorial bearings denote that he had fixed his 'Holy Cross upon the Rock of Zion,' surrounding it by the 'Emblem of Eternity,' should desert the faith for which his illustrious ancestor had devoted a holy and unstained life, was more than the people could be brought to believe. But this cruel fact was too plainly shown to the citizens of Liege by his precipitate flight with his wife and two sons, and taking refuge in that land of heretics, England. On the 25th of February, 1641, Jean, Count de Corlies, was summoned to appear before the Grand Council, then sitting at Ghent, to answer for the aid he had given to the enemies of God's church; when, instead of appearing and defending himself, he declared his conformity to the heretical doctrines and fled, thus leading too many to the loss of their eternal souls through his example."

In the escutcheon of the de Corlies family to which this history refers, are two tilting spears with pennons attached, each charged with a cross of gold. The motto is: "*Sub cruce, spes mea*"—Under the cross is my hope.

(1) George Corliss, first American representative of this ancient family, was born in the

county of Devonshire, England, about 1617, and came to this country in 1639, settling at Newbury, Massachusetts. The next year he moved to the neighboring town of Haverhill, where he lived nearly half a century, or until his death in 1686. The original tract of land on which he settled in 1640 and on which he built a log house in 1647, was in what is now known as the West Parish. The farm itself is called "Poplar Lawn," and has never been out of the possession of his direct descendants. In some of the old records the name of Thomas Corliss, of Devonshire, England, appears as the father of George Corliss; but whether this refers to the American emigrant is not certainly known. George Corliss appears to have been an enterprising and industrious citizen, one well qualified to take part in the settlement of a new town. At his death, October 19, 1686, he left a large property, being possessed of most of the land on both sides of the old "Spicket Path" for a distance of more than three miles. It is a fact worthy of note, that George Corliss, his son, John, and his grandson, John (2), all died on the same farm, and each one when sitting in the same chair. The name of George Corliss appears on the list of freemen of Haverhill in 1645, and March 26, 1650, he was chosen constable. He served as selectman in 1648-53-57-70-79.

On October 26, 1645, at Haverhill, Massachusetts, George Corliss was united in marriage to Joanna Davis. There is evidence to show that she was either sister or daughter of Thomas Davis, a sawyer, of Marlborough, England, who came over in the "James and William," in April, 1635. The Corliss marriage was the second in town, and there is a tradition in the family that at the time it occurred the bridegroom was possessed of a pair of silk breeches of such generous proportions that his wife afterward converted them into a gown for herself. There is no further record of Joanna Corliss after the settlement of her husband's estate, unless she contracted a second marriage. The county records show that on October 4, 1687 "Johannah Corley" married James Ordway, at Newbury, Massachusetts. Children of George and Joanna (Davis) Corliss: Mary, born September 6, 1646; John, whose sketch follows; Joanna, born April 28, 1650; Martha, June 2, 1652; Deborah, June 6, 1655; Ann, November 8, 1657; Huldah, November 18, 1661; Sarah, February 23, 1663. According to the father's will, the eldest daughter, Mary, married William Neff; Martha married Samuel Ladd; Deb-