

George Read McLane was a native of Delaware, born at Wilmington, on the 20th of December, 1819. He was descended through both parents from some of the earliest and most honorable stock in that State. His parental grandfather, Colonel Allen McLane, was a most gallant and distinguished officer of the Revolution—a most intrepid leader of a legion of cavalry, under the immediate command of Washington; and his maternal great grandfather, George Read, was one of the illustrious signers of the Declaration of Independence. His father, the late Dr. Allen McLane, was an eminent physician and distinguished gentleman in Wilmington.

At an early age, George became a pupil at Newark Academy, in that State, to which resorted, for a period of nearly seventy years, many of the youth of the peninsula, composed of Delaware and the Eastern shore counties of Maryland and Virginia. In due time he was admitted to the Freshman class in Delaware College, in the village of Newark, and continued a student of that institution until the second term of the Sophomore year. The profession of Civil Engineering was at that time attracting to its ranks many young men of the older States, and young McLane entered it at about the age of 17, under the instruction of Isaac Trimble, a distinguished engineer, then in charge of the Baltimore and Susquehanna Railroad. Remaining in the service nearly two years, he became satisfied that his right place was in the profession of which his father had so long been an ornament in his native State.

Under the instruction of his accomplished parent, he went through the regular course of study, and after graduating with credit in the Medical department of Pennsylvania University, availed himself of the advantages afforded in the city of Philadelphia, for the reputation which he afterwards acquired as a practitioner in his native place. Several years were spent by him in the active pursuit of his profession, in partnership with his father, until the decease of the latter, and a large and lucrative practice rewarded his industry and merit.