

today). It was immediately demolished to make way for the new Broad Street Station building, and within two years of the sale, both of the Grant women had also passed away.

The family's fracture with John came soon after. Continuing William's narrative,

He had a comfortable estate from his Father but let it slip away.
At the time of Elizette's death [April 1882] he gave much trouble about her will –
published articles in the paper about it. We have not been on speaking terms for years.
He has broken up the family union and done no good to himself.

By 1883, John A. McAllister moved away from central Philadelphia, where had been born and lived for sixty years. He settled first in Germantown, nearly ten miles to the north. On January 7, 1884, in another act of alienation, he resigned from the Council of the Historical Society of Pennsylvania. The institution's minutes reflected that "...except for 1 gentleman he was the only survivor of the council of 1860, but that of late his time and thoughts had been occupied with other matters than those of the Society." After six years in Germantown, McAllister relocated to West Philadelphia and lived there until his death from nephritis at age 75. He died at his home, 4406 Sansom Street, on October 22, 1896.

John A. McAllister had married Annette Steinbrenner (1832-1926) in 1861. Ten years his junior, she was born in New York to Frederick W. and Annette Steinbrenner, and had been living in Philadelphia with her grandparents Godfrey and Christianna Weber, her widowed mother, and five sisters. Weber (d. 1862) was a silk merchant and importer (a small group of his papers are part of the McAllister Collection, McA MSS 028). McAllister formed a closer relationship with the Steinbrenner and Weber families than with his own; his will specifically stated that he was to be interred "where my wife's parents are buried" in the Weber and Steinbrenner family lot in Philadelphia's Woodlands Cemetery rather than with his grandparents, parents, and siblings in the large McAllister ancestral lot within the same West Philadelphia burial ground. John A. and Annette McAllister had no children. The McAllisters were practicing Episcopalians, having left the church of their heritage, the Associate Presbyterian Church, in 1832 to worship with the Rev. Stephen H. Tyng (1800-1885), first at St. Paul's Church and later at the Church of the Epiphany. When Rev. Tyng transferred to a New York parish, his son Rev. Dudley A. Tyng (1825-1858) became their pastor. The family's religious migration was discussed by John A. McAllister in an 1855 letter to Benson Lossing (Lossing Papers, Historical Society of Pennsylvania).

While his day job and much of his life remains a mystery, it is clear that a large part of John A. McAllister's time and thoughts were occupied with accumulating the wide-ranging collection of manuscripts, ephemera, prints, broadsides, maps, photographs, books, newspapers, and pamphlets that he gave to the Library Company during the 1880s. The collecting impulse, if not some of the material itself, was inherited. When John McAllister Jr. retired from the optical shop in 1835, he began to assemble in earnest an antiquarian library described in Watson's *Annals*