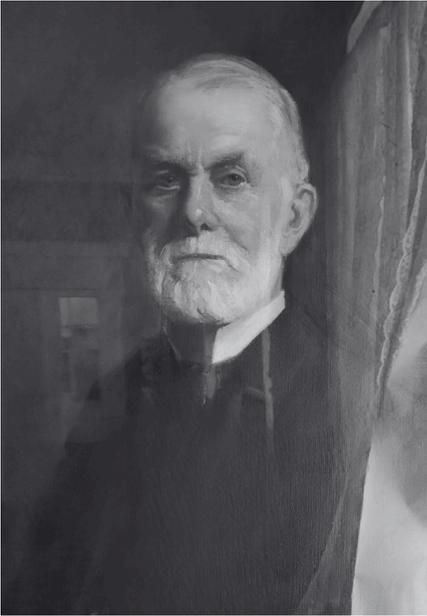




Ross County Contributor

William Trimble McClintick



William Trimble McClintick was a prominent lawyer and civic leader from Chillicothe, Ohio, whose commitment to public life and local history helped shape the preservation of Ross County's rich past. McClintick, born on February 20, 1819 in Chillicothe and passed away October 28, 1903, spent his life practicing law in his hometown and serving his community with distinction. His career in the legal profession spanned decades, and he was a respected figure in both local and state affairs.

Admitted to the Ohio Bar early in his life, McClintick built a successful legal career in Chillicothe, earning recognition for his advocacy and knowledge of the law. Throughout his professional life he maintained deep ties to the civic and cultural life of Ross County.

Though primarily known as an attorney, McClintick understood the importance of remembering and honoring the region's history. As Chillicothe prepared to celebrate its centennial on July 23, 1896, local leaders recognized the need for a formal organization dedicated to preserving the story of Ohio's first capital and its surrounding county.

On the afternoon of January 1, 1896, at the request of the centennial committee, a small group of community leaders gathered with a vision to preserve the history of Chillicothe and Ross County for future generations. At this organizational meeting, local attorney William T. McClintick was elected the first President of the Ross County Historical Society, marking the beginning of a lasting institution devoted to historical preservation and education.

Although McClintick was unable to attend the Society's first official meeting due to illness, his leadership was instrumental in its founding and early direction. His own home became the Society's first museum, housing some of the initial collections and documents that would form the foundation of the organization's archives.

William T. McClintick's influence on Ross County extended far beyond his legal career. By helping to establish the Ross County Historical Society and serving as its first President, he laid the groundwork for preserving the community's heritage at a time when the voices of earlier generations could easily have been lost. The Society's ongoing work—operating museums, maintaining archives, and fostering historical understanding—stands as a testament to his foresight and dedication.

McClintick left behind a legacy rooted in civic engagement and historical stewardship. His leadership in founding one of the county's most enduring institutions reflects both his commitment to his community and his belief in the power of history to guide the present and future.