

# PICKAWAY QUARTERLY

Published by  
PICKAWAY COUNTY  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
CIRCLEVILLE, OHIO

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ORANGE COUNTY CALIFORNIA  
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The Penny Post Card was used for business communications at the turn of the century.

# The History of the Ambler Family

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following history of the Ambler family was published in the Sunday Magazine of the Cincinnati Enquirer and later published in the Circleville Herald on August 21, 1927.

Ambler, of Yorkshire, England, are recorded as respectable and opulent. The family is an old one in Wales as well as in England.

Aumbler and Omble are given by some writers as possibly the first forms of the name, or it may have been derived from the Anglo-Saxon personal name, Amber, from which came Amberley, Ambersham, Amberhill and so on. Ambler from Amber seems easy. Le Ambleur is a French form of the name.

Richard Ambler is the colonial forebear of the Virginia branch, 1716. Another Richard settled at Watertown, Massachusetts, in 1639, an earlier arrival than the Richard of Virginia. He died at Stamford, Connecticut, in 1699, aged 99 years. Three-fourths of all the Amblers in this country are his descendants. Richard is a favorite name in the family, and he, too, may have come from Yorkshire, the birthplace of Richard Ambler of Virginia. Another first ancestor is John Ambler, of Wrentham, Massachusetts, 1775. Early in the nineteenth century the Amblers, of Maryland, founded a family in Ohio. There were six brothers — Ambler — each six feet tall, who were politely referred to as "thirty-six feet of Ambler".

In New England, connected lines are those of Fairchild, Bacon, Picket, Beardsley and Shelton. One marriage was with the family of Bartelame — Claude Bartelame, born in France, being the founder of the family.

The wife of Chief Justice John Marshall was Mary Willis Ambler, daughter of Jacquelin, or Jaquelin, and Rebecca Burwell Ambler. Rebecca had counted among her early conquests, Thomas Jefferson. It was in 1781 that Mary Ambler and Captain Marshall met. He then was a Culpepper minute man. Marshall was then but a youth when he met his fate — Mary Ambler, and she was not seventeen when they were married. He was 23. Their wedding day was January 2, 1783. They were married at "The Cottage," Hanover County, her home.

Their only daughter, Mary, became the wife of Jacqueline Harvie. Mary Willis (Ambler) Marshall was one of a family of seven daughters and one son, and as said above, her father was Jacqueline Ambler, who was the third or fourth generation from the colonists, Richard Ambler and wife, Elizabeth Jaqueline, of Jamestown, Virginia. Richard was the son of John Ambler, of Yorkshire. Edward Ambler, born in 1733, son of Richard and Elizabeth, married Mary Cary. Their home was at Jamestown. The house was originally built for a government house by Sir William Berkeley. It was standing until late in the nineteenth century.

The Randolphs, Moncures, Fairfaxes, Fishers, Calls and Carringtons are families found on Ambler genealogical charts.

The Harvies are from Scotland. John Harvie, from the shire of Stirling, settled in Albemarle County, Virginia, about 1753 where he married a daughter of Daniel Gaines, and was the father of four sons and five daughters. Daniel's children, four girls and two boys, married into the families of Bostwick, Cosby and Gilmer. Three of the sisters married each a Gilmer. Daniel's wife was Sallie Taliaferro, of the family of Amherst County, Virginia, and her brother was General Benjamin Taliaferro.

An Ambler genealogy of a few pages was published around 1899. Records are also found in "Virginia Families" by McIlhany; "Prominent Virginia Families" by Du Bell, the "Richmond Standard;" Mead's "Old Churches of Virginia," "American Ancestry," "Savages Genealogical Dictionary" and "New England Historical and Genealogical Register."

J.B. Ambler was a boot and shoe merchant of this city (Circleville) and purchased a section of the Olds Block, later occupied by A. Nonnamaker, from T.B. Cox, of Lancaster, for \$5,000 cash.

J.B. Ambler is listed in the 1876-77 Circleville Directory as residing at 539 East Main Street and having a boot and shoe shop at 268 Main Street.

## Hulse Family

NOTE: This story was told by Uncle Julius Hulse at the 1988 Hulse Family Reunion.

(James) Reeves (Hulse) would go to Williamsport every Saturday night to visit and drink at the saloon. His wife, Etta, who had the strength of a man, finally tired of his coming home slightly tipsy every week.

With her sons, John and Jim, she drove the horse-drawn wagon into Williamsport to bring Reeves home. She walked into the saloon, picked up the bar man and threw him out the plate glass window, dragged her husband from the building, and went home. That was the last time Reeves was a patron of that saloon.

Etta would take the horse and wagon to Circleville on the average of twice a year to buy staples to last for six months. She might purchase 110 pound bags of rice (if the potato crop was bad), salt by the barrel, and such. She would buy bolts of denim for the boys' trousers and her skirts. The boys' shirts and her blouses and dresses also were made from one bolt of material.

One store she frequented was Friedman's. Prices were never posted there. When asked about a price, Momma Friedman would ask Poppa Friedman what they should charge. Then they would converse in German to determine how much to charge that particular customer. The Friedmans were not aware that Etta knew and spoke German and understood their conversation. They were not able to figure out how she always knew what price to offer, and not negotiate even one penny more.