

Bartleys & Bartletts of Kentucky and Colonial Maryland

There was a considerable clan of Bartleys in Daviess County, Kentucky, beginning in the mid 1800s and lasting into the 1900s. The family histories are fairly well established back to the early 1800s, but do not go further back than that time or outside of Kentucky.

The trail of my ancestry leads back through Daviess to Hezekiah Bartley, who spent the last decades of his long life in Union County, Kentucky and died there in 1884. Pedigrees in general circulation most often miss his first brief marriage to Polly Jacobs, with one son, and do not identify his origins. I find the evidence convincing that this early son was my ancestor Thomas Bartley of Washington County, Kentucky. I also find a good circumstantial case that Hezekiah came from a clan of Bartletts of Talbot County, Maryland, descendants of 1661 immigrant Nicholas Bartlett and his wife Sarah.

It is established that Polly Jacobs was a member of a family who lived in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, directly across the Chesapeake Bay from Talbot. The Jacobs family migrated from Anne Arundel to the Sugar Land Hundred in Montgomery County, Maryland, then to Rowan County in North Carolina, and finally to Clark County, Indiana, across the Ohio River from Louisville, Kentucky. I have identified a tentative specific lineage for Hezekiah and a firm one for Polly. There are some signs that the families could have known each other in Maryland, but as of this time there is no clear evidence that they did, nor that they migrated together.

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Introductory remarks

This lineage aims to to be ultimately based on evidence from primary, contemporary documentation in reliable sources that are published or available to the public upon request.

Acceptable primary evidence may be direct or circumstantial. (i) If they were recorded and preserved, vital records of births, marriages and deaths are the staples of traditional genealogy — but surviving Colonial records are fragmentary. Property records including wills, land deeds, and tax lists were most often well kept, but by their nature limited to those who had property. In particular, women most often could not own property, except when a widow acquired rights by dower to part of her husband's estate. (ii) As eminent genealogist Elizabeth Shown Mills has stressed, migrations were of *groups*.¹ The families discussed here maintained their ties with each other and with

allied families for generations, even as they moved from place to place. (ii) Unusual given names, such as Hezekiah in this lineage, or repetitive patterns of common given names often have identifying value.

In the end, indirect findings need to be logical and make sense as a story. For instance, if events for person X are consecutive but shift from one place to another, it is reasonable to surmise that person X is one and the same but has moved. Reasoning by process of elimination can be useful if there are a finite number of known possibilities, but not if there are a very large or indefinite number. If someone seems to have moved a great distance, there should be some reason apparent — for instance, all of his friends were doing it, or he was an orphaned younger son whose older brother had inherited the family farm, and so staying put was not an option.

The focus here is on the Bartley surname, not to slight the women involved; it is simply a matter of limiting the coverage to something manageable.

A word on name variants, in particular Bartley and Bartlett: in modern usage these are quite distinct, but in the Colonial Era they were commonly interchanged.² At a time when most people could not read or write, and regional dialects were diverse, spelling of family and given names was often an approximate matter. Although the Old Testament name Jonathan is unrelated to the New Testament John, if the former is shortened to “Jon” it sounds just the same as “John.” Clerks of the Colonial Era sometimes alternated between the forms in the same document³ or abbreviated both as Jno. Similarly, reported ages were loose, since record-keeping and mathematical skills were both inconsistent, and precision about age of little practical importance.

Peter Bartley Nordberg

My younger brother, Peter, whose middle name was his mother’s mother’s maiden name, was born on January 29, 1956 in Washington D.C. and died April 17, 2010 in Abington, Pennsylvania. He was married three times: to (i) Sharon Renee Edgar, February 17, 1974, Ozaukee County, Wisconsin; divorced April 29, 1980, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; (ii) Susan Ginsburg, 1986, Maryland; divorce initiated 1989; and (iii) Kristie Diane Billings, May 16, 1997, McGregor, Texas. He had one child, Robert Brinkley Nordberg, *b.* June 21, 1998, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.⁴

Peter was an attorney.⁵

**(Joan) Beverly Schulte &
Robert Bernard Nordberg**

My mother lived from September 17, 1926 to July 28, 2014, my father from December 25, 1921 to May 8, 2004. They had two children: (i) me, and (ii) my brother, Peter.⁴ My father's ancestry has been previously reported.^{6, 7}

My mother was a homemaker, educator and prolific oil painter. My father was a professor. Both were Roman Catholics until the final years of their lives.

**(Catherine) Connie Bartley &
(John) Joseph Schulte**

Connie was born on November 19, 1902 in West Louisville, Kentucky. She married Joseph Schulte on January 12, 1926 in Sorgo, Kentucky in 1926. She died October 17, 1983 in Aurora, Colorado. The couple had three children, all at St. Leo, Kansas: (i) (Joan) Beverly Schulte, *b.* September 17, 1926; (ii) (Marolyn) Janice Schulte, *b.* February 11, 1928; (iii) John Bernard ("Jerry") Schulte, *b.* March 3, 1932.⁴

Following their marriage, the couple settled on a farm in St. Leo, Kansas, where they spent most of their lives. In their later years, they moved to Denver, Colorado, close to their daughter Janice. Connie was an early shutterbug and a fastidious record-keeper, providing me with extremely detailed information about my family's lives, and a very good beginning for the genealogy that follows. I have reported the Schulte ancestry elsewhere.^{8, 9}

Joe was a farmer. Connie in her early days was a teacher in a one-room schoolhouse, later a homemaker. The couple were both Roman Catholics.

**John Edward Bartley &
(Mary) Frona Clayton**

John Edward Bartley was born on November 25, 1867 in Daviess County, Kentucky.¹⁰ He married Mary Frona Clayton there October 17, 1899.¹¹ He died on March 20, 1942.¹⁰ Frona was born in West Louisville, Kentucky on June 3, 1869.¹² She died January 28, 1934 in Sorgo, Kentucky.¹² The couple had six children: (i) (Thomas) Byron, *b.* May 9, 1900; (ii) (Mary) Alice, *b.* September 4, 1901; (iii) (Catherine) Connie, *b.* November 19, 1902; (iv) (Mary) Della, *b.* January 28, 1904; (v) (Josephine) Lena, *b.* September 12, 1906; and (vi) (John) Sherman, *b.* August 15, 1908, all in West Louisville, Kentucky.¹²

My mother writes, "The parents of Mary Frona Clayton and John Edward Bartley lost their spouses fairly early and married each other (and their children), so Mary Frona and John Edward Bartley were step-sister and brother who later married each other. Thus they were not blood related."

John Bartley was a farmer.¹⁰ I have outlined the Clayton ancestry in a separate monograph.¹³

**James Thomas Bartley &
(Lavinia) Josephine Hoskins**

James Thomas Bartley was born about 1842 in Kentucky, probably in Washington County.¹⁴ He died sometime during the 1870s.^{15, 16} Josephine Hoskins was born May 27, 1851 in (probably) Owensboro, Kentucky and died February 20, 1931 in Du Quoin, Perry County, Illinois.¹⁷ The couple married, presumably, by 1867, when their first child was born. They had four known children: (i) John Edward Bartley, *b.* November 25, 1867;^{15 12} (ii) William A., *b.* about 1869;^{12, 15} (iii) James, *b.* August 13, 1874;^{16, 18} and (iv) Loyd T., *b.* about 1879.^{16, 19} After James's death, Josephine remarried, to John M. Clayton, whose spouse, Darcus Payne, had also died.

"James T." Bartley first appears as an 8-year-old in the 1850 census.¹⁴ He was then about 150 miles east of Daviess County, where he settled. "Thos Bartley" is shown on the 1860 census for Daviess as a 17 year-old laborer born in Kentucky. The census shows him and other laborers living with a family of Hodgkins, close to the Clayton family of his wife's second husband.²⁰

Civil War muster lists show Thomas J. Bartley (also known as James T. Bartley or John T.) on the Union side for a three year term beginning November 4, 1861. He was a private first class in the 17th and 25th infantries. The fighting in the border state of Kentucky is reported to have been particularly intense, especially during 1861-62. He was hospitalized for a number of months in Louisville beginning in the middle of 1862. It is unclear if injuries or other health problems were the occasion for the hospital stay; the muster list reports are "sick" and "no descriptive list."²¹

The 1870 Kentucky census shows "James T. Bartley" living with his wife "Josaphine" and the two children shown here. His occupation is described as "common laborer."¹⁵

Like her mother, Josephine Hoskins married very young. She had her first known child when she was 16. She was 29 and a widow by the time of the 1880 census. Her 53 year-old mother was living with her then (not the other way around).¹⁶ There are 1890 records of a military pension filing for James T. Bartley on behalf of Louvenia J. Clayton, listed as widow, with John M. Clayton, her second husband, listed as guardian.²²

James Thomas was a farm laborer.¹⁵

**Thomas Bartley &
(i) Susan Lyons
(ii) Mary Jennings**

Thomas Bartley was born about 1814 in Kentucky, or perhaps immediately across the Ohio River in New Albany, Indiana.^{23, 24} (A single report from a census shows a middle initial of *R*.)²⁰ He was last reported alive in Marion County, Kentucky in 1880.¹⁶ His first wife was Susan Lyons,²³ who was born about 1818, also in Kentucky.¹⁴ The couple married presumably by 1836, when their first child was born. She was alive in 1850,¹⁴ but evidently had died by 1858, when Thomas had remarried to Mary Jennings and fathered a child with her.^{20, 25} Mary was born about 1824 in Kentucky²⁰ and had died by 1880.¹⁶ Thomas Bartley and Susan Lyons had six children: (i) Eliza E., *b.* about 1836; (ii) John *b.* October 11, 1839;²³ (iii) James R.M., *b.* about 1840; (iv) James Thomas, *b.* about 1842 (v) William M., *b.* about 1847 (vi) Sarah N., *b.* about 1849.¹⁴ With Mary, Thomas had two children: (vii) Robert H and (viii) Hezekiah. This last name is noteworthy, since it corroborates other indirect information indicating Thomas's own parentage.

Thomas was a farmer and day laborer. He spent most of his adult life in Washington County, Kentucky and then adjacent Marion.^{14, 16, 20}

**Hezekiah Bartley (Bartlett) &
(i) Polly Jacob(s)
(ii) Eleanor Madden**

Hezekiah Bartley, by family report, was *b.* February 22, 1793 in Maryland, *d.* Oct. 18, 1884.^{14, 26} That report gives him a middle name of Kendrick, which is not corroborated anywhere else that I have found. (One conflicting record shows a birthplace of Virginia, of which Kentucky was a part at that time.)¹⁵ He married (i) Polly Jacob on April 29, 1817, in Jeffersonville, Floyd County, Indiana, across the Ohio River from Louisville, Kentucky;²⁷ and (ii) Eleanor Madden on January 12, 1824, in

Washington County, Kentucky.²⁸ With Polly, he had one child, Thomas. With Eleanor, he had sixteen children, who are listed below.

The first contemporary record I have been able to find of Hezekiah is of his marriage to Polly Jacob 1n 1817 in Floyd County, Indiana.²⁷ He is shown in the 1820 census of New Albany, Floyd County, in 1820²⁴ as head of a household with one child aged under ten and no females. This indicates that Polly died before 1820, perhaps in childbirth, and fits with Hezekiah's subsequent remarriage in 1824.

The case that the son shown in the 1820 census was the Thomas Bartley of this lineage is convincing to me, despite a small inconsistency in dates of birth as estimated from census reports. To me, the fact that Thomas had a son who he named Hezekiah,²⁰ a quite unusual name, is persuasive. In that era, it was a matter of course that a couple would name one child after the father's father.

In 1822, Hezekiah Bartley appears for the first time in the tax lists of Washington County, Kentucky.²⁹ (John Bartley, who I will make the case was his father, had appeared in the lists in 1821.)³⁰ Hezekiah continued to appear in the tax lists in the following years, in each case shown as not owning land, though he did manage to acquire a couple of horses.³¹⁻³⁴ In 1824, he married Eleanor Madden. In 1830, he appears on the census next to Walter Madden, who I imagine is part of Eleanor's family, perhaps her father.

Hezekiah Bartley moved from Washington County to Union County, Kentucky by 1850.¹⁴ He remained there for the rest of his life.^{15, 26} He was a farmer.^{14, 15} In later life, at least, he was a Roman Catholic.²⁶

A 1994 brief biographical note from *The Roman Catholic Diocese of Owensboro, Kentucky*²⁶ offers a useful overview of much of Hezekiah's later life, and provides useful information about his roots:

BARTLEY, HEZEKIAH KENDRICK, was born Feb. 22, 1793 in Maryland, the son of John and Sarah Bartley. In 1824, Hezekiah married Elenor Madden in Washington County, KY, and about 1838 the Bartley's moved to Union County, KY. They became one of the early families of Sacred Heart Church. As Hezekiah tilled the soil of his Union County farm, his family prospered, eventually numbering 16 children: Reuben L., Milton, Walter, Mary, Solomon, Matthew, Henry Harrison, Louisa Ann, Nancy, Margaret Catherine, Sarah Elizabeth, Eliza Magdalin, Martha, Hezekiah Jr., Susanna and Elisha Alexander.

Elenor Madden Bartley died in Union County, Jan. 19, 1881, and Hezekiah Bartley died there Oct. 18, 1884 at the old age of 91. Both are buried in St. Ann Cemetery, as are

many of their descendants. Also,, the Bartley name can be found on several markers in Union County, KY.

Although the Bartley name has died out in Union County, descendants of Hezekiah and Elenor continue to live there with names such as Veatch, Tucker, Stewart and Collins.

Polly Jacobs was the daughter of Jeremiah Jacobs,³⁵ who was a few lines away from Hezekiah Bartlett in the 1820 census of New Albany, Indiana²⁴, and of Jeremiah's wife, Mary Pinchback.^{36, 37} This Jeremiah was the son of the Jeremiah Jacobs who came from Anne Arundel County, Maryland,³⁷ just across the Chesapeake Bay from Talbot County, where I believe Hezekiah's roots most probably were. The Jacobs family moved from Anne Arundel to the Sugar Land Hundred of Montgomery (earlier Frederick) County in Maryland by 1776, then about 1780 to Rowan County, North Carolina, and about 1800 to Clark County, Indiana, perhaps with a brief stop in Jefferson County, Kentucky along the way. If Polly were roughly the same age as Hezekiah, she would presumably have been born in the 1790s. The 1800 Rowan census³⁸ shows a household headed by Jeremiah Jacobs, which appears to include three generations of the family, including one female aged under ten. The most likely candidate as a daughter's name for Jeremiah and Mary Jacobs would be Mary, for which Polly was a common nickname. Jeremiah died 1830 or 1831. He did not leave a will, which makes sorting out his family a little difficult.³⁶ Guardianship records show that he had a son, William P. Jacobs.³⁹, and reportedly other children, Jeremiah Nelson and Jane.³⁷ I have not been able to figure out what happened in widow Mary's life afterwards.

Aside from the two Jeremiah Jacobs who were Polly's father and grandfather, there was a third Jeremiah Jacobs in the area at this time. This last namesake was born in the 1760s,⁴⁰ married Edith — (b. 1764 in Virginia, d. 1852 in Spencer County, Kentucky^{14, 41-43}), resided from 1796⁴⁴ through at least 1820 in Nelson County, Kentucky,²⁴ and died by 1841 in Spencer, Kentucky.⁴² The couple had three known children, all daughters: Kirzah, Ruth, and Ann.⁴³ There is a fair amount of evidence indicating that this Jeremiah belonged to the clan from Anne Arundel. (1) The name Jeremiah Jacobs in itself is distinguishing. (2) There are records of two land patents in Clark County, Indiana by Jeremiah Jacobs, noted to be a resident of Nelson, Kentucky^{45, 46} — indicating ties between the locations. (3) John and Greenbury Gaither, of the family of Polly's paternal grandmother, had migrated from Anne Arundel to Nelson by the early 1790s.^{37, 47} — While the specifics of the pedigree are outside of the current focus, if, as it appears, this third³⁷ Jeremiah Jacobs is part of the family of the other two, we have a better understanding of the human aspects of the story: i.e. that by 1796⁴⁴ he had followed in the footsteps of his relatives by marriage, the Gaithers; that the two Jeremiah Jacobs of the ancestry of first interest here were drawn, at least in part, from Rowan, North Carolina by his lead; that the Jacobs families of Nelson, Kentucky and of

Clark, Indiana were linked; and, finally, that Hezekiah Bartlett of Washington County, adjoining Nelson, would very plausibly have met the Jacobs of Nelson, Kentucky and so found his way to a spouse in Indiana.

The Jacobs family of Anne Arundel is well-researched and documented.^{37, 48, 49} The ascent is carried back a number of generations into England.⁵⁰ Although there are some variations between the different versions, these do not appear troublesome for the story at hand. I do not find any significant signs that the Bartletts accompanied the Jacobs in their convoluted migrations, though the Jacobs did move from state to state along with other local Marylanders, for instance, the Veaches and the Pinchbacks.

John Bartlett & Sarah —

Records corroborating that Hezekiah was son of John and Sarah Bartley, as reported above, are to be found in Clark County, Indiana and in Washington County, Kentucky. In 1809, John Bartlett's name appears on a Clark petition for election of territorial officers about fifteen lines below that of Jeremiah Jacobs, Junior.⁵¹ In the same year, John Bartlett was one of sixty-some voters in Clarksville Township, along with Jacobs family members.⁵²

The tax records in Washington include the Bartley family there for the first time in 1821, when John Bartley appeared, with no land.³⁰ In 1822, Hezekiah Bartley also appeared, again with no land.²⁹ The two names recur in the following years; in 1825, Hezekiah is four lines after John.³³ In the 1830 census,⁵³ Sarah Bartlett, aged 50 to 60, appears as head of a household that included a male in the same age bracket and three younger males of various ages. It may be that the oldest male was her husband John, incapacitated; or it may be that she was a widow caring for someone outside of her own family, for whatever reason. Hezekiah and his family are established in a separate census listing.⁵³ There are no traces of any of the family in probate or land records, perhaps because they did not have substantial assets.

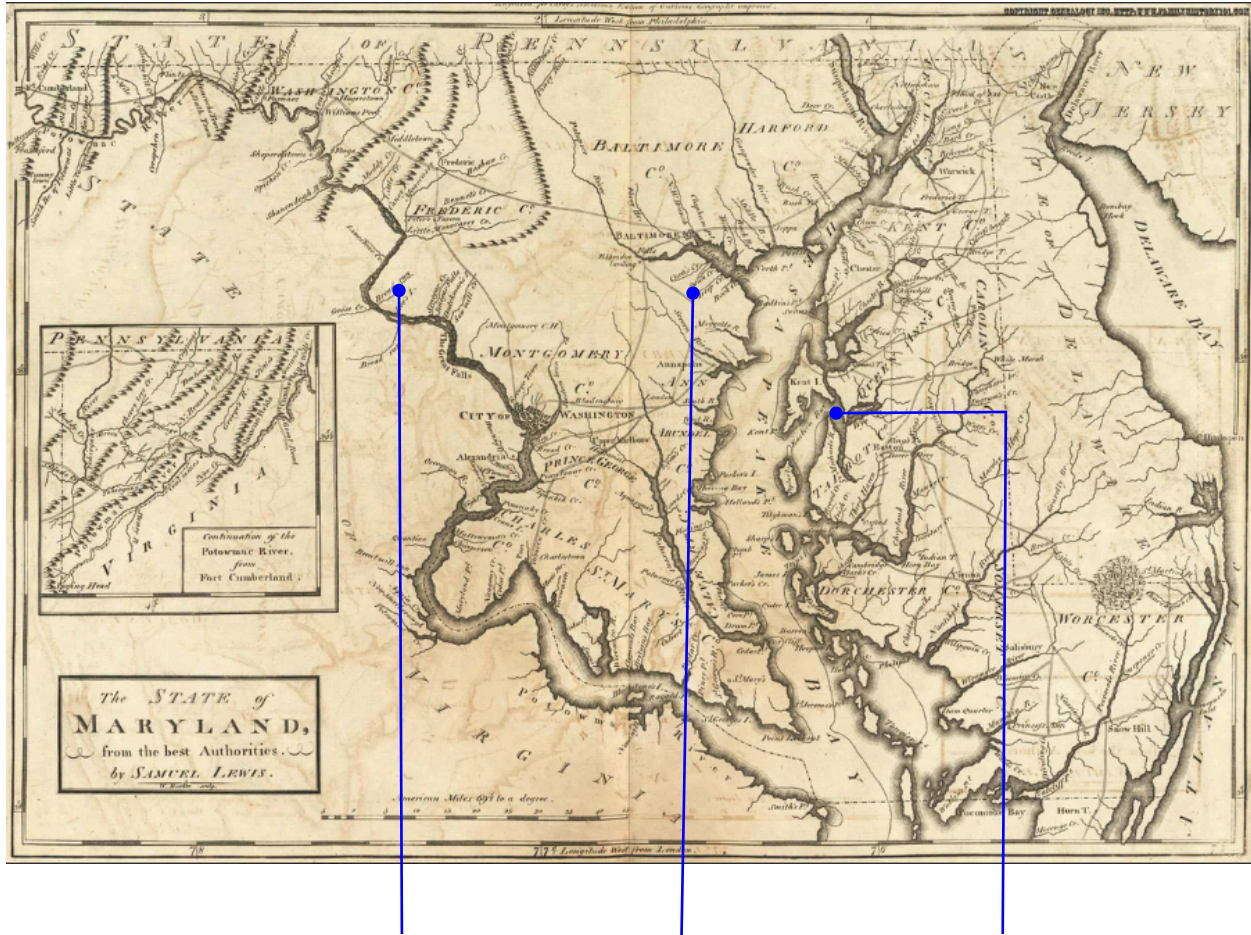
The trail back to Maryland becomes sketchier, I believe not because the family didn't come from Maryland, but because the surviving records from that era are spotty, especially for the more humble, less established members of society. I have evaluated and ruled out many other scenarios in Maryland and Virginia. The number of Colonial Bartletts was clearly finite, and I believe that it is extremely unlikely that there was a significant clan who vanished without a trace. The pedigree I am describing here is consistent with the available evidence, but others are not impossible.

Of the allied family names (Veatch, Tucker, Stewart and Collins) cited in the *Catholic Diocese of Owensboro* report, we find *all* of them in the Tax Assessment of 1783 for the North Potomac and Sugar Land Hundred of Montgomery County, Maryland,⁵⁴ notably including a Charles Bartley and a Hezekiah Veatch in the Sugarland and Upper Potomac Hundred. The 1776 census of Sugar Land included the family of “Jaramiah Jacobs,”^{37, 49, 55} matching the name of the father of Hezekiah’s first wife — who came from Anne Arundel County, immediately across the Chesapeake Bay from the Bartletts described below. Together, the matches seem beyond coincidence. It would be tempting to connect the dots through Charles Bartley and to imagine that Hezekiah Bartley was named after Hezekiah Veatch. These suppositions may be valid, but to date I have found no specifics to support or discredit either. There is more specific information in the area of Maryland’s Eastern Shore, including the counties of Kent, Talbot, Dorchester, and — later on — Queen Anne’s and Caroline. For example, the 1725 Kent probate administration account for Nicholas Bartlett includes a payment “to John Tucker for looking after the Cattle and bringing them up to appraise.”⁵⁶

The 1790 United States census of Caroline County, Maryland show a household with Jonathan Bartlett, one white male under 16, two females, and seven slaves. The 1800 census³⁸ shows the household with him in the age bracket 26 - 44, as is his wife. There are two younger males and one female less than 10. This pair of listings is consistent with a reported birth date of 1793 for Hezekiah.^{15, 26} Jonathan’s grandfather, Thomas, had passed on the family estate, named Partnership, to his oldest son, Daniel,³ following the customs of primogeniture.⁵⁷ This left Jonathan’s father (also named Jonathan) without property to pass on. So, the younger Jonathan had no material ties to keep him close to the family home, so might understandably have decided to seek his fortune elsewhere, as many of his compatriots were doing. As noted at the outset, the name Jon(athon) might easily have come to be accepted as John.

What took the Bartletts to Kentucky? I suspect that the connection was through the Catholic communities of Talbot and of Hardin Creek, Kentucky. The Reverend Joseph Mosley, S.J. and his ally Reverend James Ashby in 1765 established St. Joseph’s Mission Church in the Tuckahoe Hundred of Talbot along the Wye River close to where Jonathan Bartlett was. Mosley bought the land from Reverend John Miller and his wife Margaret, of nearby Kent County, Delaware, and Sarah Millington.⁵⁸⁻⁶⁰ The Millington family shared in ownership of three abutting parcels, called Betts Chance, Epsom, and Nobles Meadows.⁶¹ Betts Chance was the parcel that the church was built on. Nobles Meadows was one of a number of lots owned by Robert Noble and cited in his will of 1682.⁶² Nobles Range was another, part of it in Talbot County, part in Queen Anne’s. In 1775, Jonathon Bartlett’s brother James bought Nobles Range.^{63, 64} So, Jonathan’s family

Map of Maryland, 1795



**Sugarland and
North Potomac
Hundred**
Frederick /
Montgomery Counties

1776
Jeremiah Jacobs

1783
Charles Bartley
Hezekiah Veach

All Hallows Parish
Anne Arundel County

1665 - 1800s
Jacobs family

Talbot County

1661 - 1800s
Bartlett family

- 1784
John Jacobs

1757 - 1786
Joseph Mosley, S.J.

and Father Mosley lived close to each other, and it seems most likely that they were acquainted with each other.

I do not know whether Jonathan Bartlett joined the Catholic Church in Maryland; there are almost no surviving early records of St. Joseph's Mission Church. In 1773 Pope Clement XIV ordered the disbandment of the Society of Jesus (Jesuit order), whose priests were the Catholic ministers and missionaries of Talbot and St. Mary's counties. The Society remained suppressed until 1805.⁶⁵ Curiously, the *absence* of Jonathan Bartlett from the usual vital records is thus consistent with the hypothesis that he became a Catholic. His son's later Catholic faith²⁶ also would fit with this possibility. At the very least, Jonathan would have been aware of the community and the migration, and presumably knew some of the people involved.

There are extensive documentation and discussion of the leading role Fathers Mosley and Ashby played in the early Catholic community of Maryland,^{59, 60, 65} and of the migration of many members of this community to settlements along Hardin's Creek in Kentucky, where the Bartletts and the Jacobs appeared, and other nearby locations.

Jonathan Bartlett & —

Jonathan Bartlett was the son of James Bartlett and Sarah Hopkins, who were married in 1731.⁶⁶ He was the youngest of three known sons, so presumably born later in the 1730s or perhaps in the earlier part of the 1740s. He left a will dated October 15, 1779 and probated April 13, 1781,⁶⁷ so died about 1780. I have found no information about his wife. Since his will does not mention her, presumably she died before 1799. The will enumerates five children: (i) Daniel, (ii) Thomas, (iii) Jonathan, (iv) Rebecca, and (v) Mary Ann,⁶⁸ a daughter unnamed in the will, but implied as wife of Jonathan's "son-in-law William Salisbury."

William Salisbury's 1801 will is of interest in being witnessed by "John Bartley" with a mark. Because William Salisbury was an abutter of Partnership, I am guessing that this "John" is the younger Jonathan, who was unable to read or write, and so made no distinction between "Jon" and "John."

Daniel, as the eldest son, received Jonathan's 100 acre share of the Bartlett land Partnership. I find a few points worthy of note about him. First, amid the Bartlett family's very repetitive use of a few New Testament names such as Thomas, James and Nicholas, Daniel's family includes a cluster of Old Testament names: his own, his wife's (and daughter's) Esther, and his son's Elijah. This provides a possibly relevant precedent for Hezekiah, after one of the kings of Judah. Second, he was a Quaker, one of

a moderate number of the Bartlett clan who were, until he was disowned by the Friends. Finally, he was involved in an interesting conflict over slavery, which was firmly and legally established in Maryland at that time:

Abolition fractured the meetings of the Eastern shore, as many Quakers in slaveholding states left the Society of Friends either by choice or by disownment. In Talbot County, the Friends' commitment to abolition was tested early on by the case of Quakers Dennis Hopkins and Daniel Bartlett. Hopkins sold a slave to Bartlett in 1766, and when the Third Haven Meeting sent a committee to investigate the case, neither of them would "acknowledge that he had done amiss in that respect." Hopkins claimed that he did not know of the Yearly Meeting's resolutions against slavery. Bartlett said that he did know that it was "contrary to the mind of the Yearly Meeting." The case stretched over months, and in 1767 Dennis Hopkins made an apology to the meeting for his action and was forgiven by the meeting. Daniel Bartlett was disowned by the meeting for buying the slave.⁶⁹

James Bartlett & Sarah Hopkins

James Bartlett was born, we may surmise, sometime around 1700. He died in Talbot County in 1765.⁷⁰ He was married to Sarah Hopkins in a Quaker ceremony at the Easton Monthly Meeting of the Society of Friends in Talbot in 1731.⁶⁶ The couple had four known children: (i) James, (ii) Daniel, (iii) Ann, whose first husband was Isaac Melton, and (iv) Jonathan.⁷⁰ Presumably the children were born in the 1730s or perhaps 1740s.

James Bartlett owned two significant parcels of land: a part of Ratcliffe Manor, and Partnership. Ratcliffe Manor lay to the west of Easton in Talbot County, on the point between Tred Avon River and its tributary, Dixon Creek. (Electronic map coordinates are 38.7627, -76.1112.) Partnership also was west of Easton, on the spit of land between Miles River and Tred Avon River, both tributaries of the Chesapeake River. (Electronic map coordinates are 38.7525, -76.1454.) At the time James made his will, the land contained some hundreds of acres; it is not clear from the descriptions in the will just how many. The centers of the parcels are about two miles from each other as the crow flies; some early records show "Ratcliffe Manor" and "Partnership" as aliases for each other. The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties includes and documents both Ratcliffe Manor⁷¹ and Partnership.⁷²

Of relevance to the focus of this lineage, James left 320 acres of Partnership to his son Jonathan. His will also cites a grandson, Richard Milton, whose surname matches the uncommon given name of one of Hezekiah Bartley's sons.

James Bartlett and Sarah Hopkins were Quakers. He was in all probability a planter, perhaps in combination with some other occupation. Sarah Hopkins was the daughter of Dennis Hopkins,⁶⁶ whose family were planters.

**Thomas Bartlett &
Mary —**

Thomas Bartlett had children who married in the very early 1700s,^{73, 74} so we might surmise that Thomas himself had married, say, by sometime around 1680. That would put his birth at around 1660, close to the time his presumptive father, Nicholas Bartlett, had arrived in America. Thomas died in 1711.³ His will names his wife, Mary, and five children: (i) Thomas, the eldest son; (ii) John, the second son; (iii) James, the youngest son; (iv) daughter Mary, by then married to John Lowe; and (v) daughter Esther, by then married to Howell Powell. His wife, Mary, was still living at that time.

Thomas was the owner of several hundred acres of Ratcliffe Manor. He was a blacksmith, aside from being owner of a substantial plantation.³

**Nicholas Bartlett &
Sarah —**

Nicholas Bartley and his wife Sarah had come to Maryland, paying their own costs for the transport, by 1661.⁷⁵ It seems relatively clear that they owned land and that they had at least three children, two likewise named Nicholas and Sarah, and one named Thomas. After that, reading the records becomes somewhat confusing, since it isn't clear which Nicholas or Sarah is involved in a particular event, or if Sarah Bartlett is Nicholas's mother, sister, or wife.

In 1681, Nicholas Bartlett, planter, and Sarah his wife sold a parcel of land known as Petty France to William Esserson, mariner, for 17,500 pounds of tobacco, which had come to serve as currency in the Colonies. The land was along Tred Haven Creek, where later generations of the family lived.⁷⁶

Sorting through the events is tricky because both Nicholas and Sarah became traditional given names handed down through a number of generations. The difficulty is compounded by the early society's non-observance of traditional restrictions on the rights of women, such as restricting property ownership to a one-third dowry estate during widowhood. There is a continuing series of transactions citing "Sarah Bartlett"

or “Nicholas Bartlett” that appear to last longer the lifetimes of one or even two generations.

This leads me to an interesting digression on topic of women’s rights in early Colonial Maryland. Following the example of common and statutory law in England, the early settlers in America generally did not allow women to make contracts, to own property, or to vote. Maryland from its early days was home to Catholics, who did not accept the established Church of England and so the civil authority who established that church. It was unclear who had legal authority over what matters in Maryland. The freedom and privilege of all persons was acknowledged held in respect. Margaret Brent, a noted early settler there, not only held and managed her own estate, but acted as attorney for other colonists.⁷⁷ It was not until later that the rights and restrictions for women were more formally and legally defined.

Sarah Bartlett’s agreement to the 1681 land conveyance was through a power of attorney designated to Richard Sweat to act on her behalf. A common practice of the times was to ask for a wife’s renunciation of the right to dower against her husband’s estate. I am not sure what to make of the power of attorney. Was she, as a woman, not deemed to have the right to give her legal consent directly?

In 1686, Sarah Bartlett and John Lowe received title to a lot in Oxford Township due to failure of John Sedgwick, the original assignee, to build on it. In between, the land was assigned to Sarah Bartlett & William Beverly. Sarah was noted to be a “spinster” — in this context, generally a woman of any age who had never married, but sometimes applied to a widow. This Sarah may have been the daughter of the original settlers, Nicholas and Sarah.

Limitations and further work

The weakest link in this chain is the connection of Hezekiah Kendrick Bartley of Kentucky, and his purported parents John and Sarah, to the Bartletts of Talbot County. The link would be much stronger if there were possible to identify other individuals who migrated from Talbot, Maryland to Nelson and Washington, Kentucky at the same time. I have spent some time trying to figure out Sarah’s maiden name, with no success.

There are some very early Maryland land records involving the first of the Bartletts that are, for unknown reasons, not available in the designated electronic system.⁷⁸ It is not clear whether these might be available through other channels, or what additional light they might shed.

Finally, there are various unsourced family trees of the early Bartletts of Talbot County. Some of these may contain information that will lead closer to a pedigree that can be supported by evidence.

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January 22, 2022

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