

The Ballard Family Name

The Ballard name is uncommon because of the differences in spelling. A few of the spelling is Bullard, Belward, Bellyard, Billyard, and Bellard. This name is from the nickname group because it means bald-head. The name itself moved around a lot. When my ancestors moved from England to Scotland, the name changed to Ballardi, when we moved from Scotland to France it changed to Ballarde, and when we moved back to England, we split the difference with Ballardie. The name Ballard itself is English. William Ballard was the first one of us to come over in 1634 on the ship *Mary and John*. He was part of the Puritan Great Migration and he settled down in a place called Lynn. William Learned also came over from England and even had a book written about him but we will talk more about him later.

It's later. William Learned is the ancestor of a women named Martha Moore. Martha Moore and her husband Ephraim Ballard were the first of my ancestors that I realized I was related to. When Martha was a midwife she decided to write a diary in 1785. That diary was passed down through the family. Finally it was made into a movie. An *American Experience: A Midwives Tale* is all about her and her husbands life. I have been able to trace her and her husbands lineage. Since Martha's lineage is passes trough females her's is harder to track because they took their spouses' names but I have found it. William Learned married Goodith and had IsaacSr., married Mary who had IsaacJr., had Ebenezer Learned who married Deborah Haynes who had Dorothy Learned who married Elijah Moore who had Martha. Ephraim Ballard was much easier because it was shorter. William Ballard had Jonathan Ballard who married Rebecca Hooper who had Ephraim. It was also cool to learn that both Williams had something in common, they were both Freeman. A Freeman is a respected member in the community. Thats not very interesting but what was interesting was that they were not held under legal constraint. We still have that, just under a different name. Know they are called Government.

Ephraim Ballard was born on May 7, 1725, in Billerica, Massachusetts. Martha Moore was born on February 30, 1735, in Oxford, Massachusetts. They were married on December 19, 1754. Together, they had 9 children, Cyrus, Lucy, Martha, Jonathan, Triphena, Dorothy, Hannah, Dorothy (Dolly), and Ephraim Ballard, Jr. in that order. Sadly, in 1769 Dorothy the first, Martha the second and Triphena died because of a diphtheria epidemic. In 1775, Ephraim sets of to relocate in Fort Halifax, ME. Later on Martha joined him and our family has stayed in Maine ever since. A little under 300 years. Actually, Ephraim Jr, their last child, was born in Maine.

My family originates from England mostly on my fathers side. My mothers side is from Ireland. McCarty is a kind of obvious Irish name. In fact, McCarty means descendants of early Irish Kings. I have ancestors from England, France, Scotland, Ireland, Germany, Native America, and even some from Poland. My great grandmother Betty Adams/ Ballard was Jewish and her father came from Poland.

As you can read, my family is the original melting pot. As my dad would like to say, a mutt, but I am proud to be a mutt because I have the blood from people who lived and

made history. Also purebreds are sickly. The blood in me, (theoretically), flowed through the veins of some amazing people. William Learned and William Ballard, Ebenezer Learned who was a general in the revolutionary war, Clara Burton who was one of the founders of the American Red Cross. James Graham Ballard who was a brilliant British novelist and Robert Francis Ballard who was the discoverer of the Titanic might be my extremely distant 7th cousins. I said might be because I never looked it up but my family is so huge that I am 60% sure. Seriously, just about every married pair had at least 5 kids. Sadly, both of the President George Bush's are related to me too. Don't let that leave this essay! The two most important, however, are Colleen and Scott Ballard because without them, you would never read this terrific essay!!