

# PENNSYLVANIA

## A HISTORY

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**BYRON D. HAMLIN**—Few names are found that have greater or more honorable antiquity than that of Hamlin, which has been associated with great affairs both in the United States and in England during historical times, and which has a continental origin exceedingly remote. There are two different theories with regard to its derivation, the authority, Bardsley, giving it as a derivative from “the son of Hamo” or (French) “Hamon,” which would place it in the large class of patronymics which have come originally from given names. The other theory is that it took its rise in the German city of Hamlin, where some remote ancestor is supposed to have dwelt. However this may be, it has existed in France from an extremely early time, and there is practically no doubt that it was introduced into England by a follower of William the Conqueror, as it is found in the roll of Battle Abbey. During early times it appears under various spellings, such as Hamlin, Hamlyn, Hamelin, Hamblen, Hamelyn, and many other forms.

Hamlin arms are as follows :

*Arms*—Gules, a lion rampant ermine ducally crowned or.

*Crest*—Seven arrows, points upward, proper.

It is interesting to realize that the name was introduced into the New World both by English and French immigrants, as we find it existing in Quebec, Canada, among the families of French descent there, as well as in the United States, and it has played a very uncommon part in the early history of our country, as well as since the establishment of the United States as a nation, and

has given a large number of distinguished men, particularly to New England.

But it is not alone in the direct line that the Hamlins of the present day may claim a distinguished descent. On the contrary, the Hamlin family has intermarried at various times with many of the most powerful and prominent houses in England and elsewhere, so that it may now number many of the greatest figures in the history of Europe among its ancestors, and trace its descent through several royal houses back to an exceedingly remote age. Thus we have along one line a descent from one of the early Kings of Sweden, namely one Adelis, who was called "The Great," and who was an ancestor of Hrolff, or, in the softer French, Rollo the "Dane," who founded the great house of Normandy. This exceedingly interesting line may be traced as follows:

- (I) Adelis "The Great," King of Sweden.
- (II) Aystein, King of Sweden.
- (III) Yngvar, King of Sweden.
- (IV) Onund, King of Sweden.
- (V) Ilgiald King of Sweden.
- (VI) Olaf, King of Vermland.
- (VII) King Halfden Huitbein.
- (VIII) Imar, Jarl of Upland.
- (IX) Eystein Glumre, Jarl of More (860 A. D.).

(X) Rognvald, "The Mighty," Jarl of Upland, Norway, and the Isles of Shetland and Orkney.

(XI) Hrolff or Rollo, "The Dane," who, coming with a great host of vikings, sailed up the Seine River in France and subdued Normandy, which was later ceded to him by Charles "The Simple," then King of France, who made him first Duke of Normandy and gave him in marriage his daughter, the Princess Giselle, through whom the family can trace its descent from Charlemagne and the great Frankish King.

(XII) William "Longsword," second Duke of Normandy.

(XIII) Richard the Fearless, third Duke of Normandy.

(XIV) Richard (2), the Good, fourth Duke of Normandy.

(XV) Richard Le Diable, fifth Duke of Normandy.

(XVI) William the Conqueror.

(XVII) Henry I, King of England.

(XVIII) Princess Matilda, who married Geoffrey Plantagenet, which thus introduced this, one

of the proudest of the royal families of Europe, into the line.

(XIX) Henry II, of England, in whose reign trial by jury was first introduced, and who instituted any number of great and important reforms.

(XX) John Lackland, the unwilling yielder of the rights demanded in the *magna charta*.

(XXI) Henry III.

(XXII) Henry I, "Longshanks."

(XXIII) Edward II, who before ascending the throne, was the first Prince of Wales.

(XXIV) Edward III.

(XXV) John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster.

(XXVI) Joan Beauford, who married Ralph Neville, the first Earl of Westmoreland.

(XXVII) Anne Neville, who married Humphrey de Stafford, first Duke of Buckingham.

(XXVIII) Margaret de Stafford, who married Robert Dunham.

(XXIX) Sir John Dunham.

(XXX) Sir John Dunham II.

(XXXI) John Dunham.

(XXXII) Ralph Dunham, born at Scrooby, England.

(XXXIII) Thomas Dunham, also born at that place.

(XXXIV) Deacon John Dunham, born at Scrooby, but later escaped from England to Holland during the time of the persecution of non-conformists, under the name of John Goodman, and from that country sailed on the famous voyage of the "Mayflower" under the same name. Upon reaching America he resumed his original name and became the founder of a well-known family in New England.

(XXXV) John Dunham, born at Leyden, Holland, in the year 1620, and came as an infant in the arms of his parents to America in the same year. He was a prominent man in Barnstable, Massachusetts, where he married in the year 1641 a lady whom we only know that her first name was Dorothy.

(XXXVI) Mary Dunham, born November 20, 1661, at Barnstable, Massachusetts, and became the wife of James Hamlin, II.

Another very interesting line of descent, which may be claimed by the Hamlin family, is as follows:

(I) Pepin d'Heristal, a grandson of Pepin of Landen; he was Duke of Austrasia and Mayor of the Palace under the Merovingian Kings of the Franks.

(II) Charles Martel, or "The Hammer," who defeated the Arabs at the battle of Tours, and so saved France and Europe from Mohammedan domination.

(III) Pepin Le Bref, who deposed the effete Merovingian Kings and became the first Carolingian King of the Franks.

(IV) Charlemagne, the greatest figure of his time.

(V) Louis I, Le Debonnaire.

(VI) Charles II, Le Chauve.

(VII) Charles III, King of France, known as "The Simple."

(VIII) Princess Giselle, who married Rollo "The Dane."

An even earlier descent is that from Priam, King of the Franks, who flourished as early as 382 A. D., and through his son Merowig, the founder of the Merovingian dynasty, and through Clovis "The Grand," the first Christian King of the Franks. Through this line and through their descendants, the early Kings of Navarre, the descent may be traced to the early Hamlins. Many other prominent and important houses, including several other early dynasties and representatives of countries as widely separated as Greece and Rome, Spain and Russia, have contributed to the blood of the Hamlin family to-day. Among these houses should be mentioned that the Counts of Paris, who claim as their ancestor the famous Hengist, King of the Saxons, and one of those who brought the Saxon people to Britain, where he became King of Kent about 457 A. D. Still another is that which is derived from Cerdic, first King of the West Saxons, about 519 A. D., through Alfred the Great to the Princess Edith, a granddaughter of Prince Edward, "The Exile," who married Henry I, King of England.

The learned and talented author of the "Hamlin Genealogy," a remarkable book, which includes all the lines of descent of this family which can be substantiated, the Hon. H. F. Andrews, of Exira, Iowa, quotes evidence which makes it appear that the direct line of the Hamlin family is derived from one John Hamelyn, of whose life we know comparatively little, but who was residing about 1550 in Cornwall, England. He married there one Amor Knowle, a daughter of Robert Knowle, of Sarum, and among their children was Giles Hamelin, who made his home in Devonshire, England, where he married the daughter of Robert Ashley, by whom he had two sons, Thomas and

James. The evidence as given by Mr. Andrews, and which consists of names and dates taken from the baptismal records of Devonshire and elsewhere in England, makes it appear that the second of these sons, James, is the same as the founder of the family in the American colony, but although there seems to be little reason to doubt this as a fact, yet Mr. Andrews holds that it has not been thoroughly substantiated, and consequently does not include these two generations in the family tree. Passing over this doubtful point, we come to James Hamlin, who, so far as is known, was the first of the name to come to America.

(I) James Hamlin, of Hamblen, was, according to the records, living in London in the year 1623. He came to New England and settled in Barnstable, Massachusetts, in the spring of 1639, where he was a proprietor. There is an interesting list of freemen of the Plymouth Colony, which is found on the early records thereof, Vol. VIII, pages 176 to 177, and which is as follows: "Mr. Joseph Hull, Mr. Lothrope, Mr. Thomas Dimmock, Anthony Annable, James Cudworth, Isaac Robinson, Henry Rowley, John Cooper, Henry Cobb, Bernard Lumbert, Henry Bourne, William Caseley, Mr. Robert Linnett, Mr. John Mayo, Samuel Hinckley, Edward Fitzrandle, George Lewes, Samuel Jackson, James Hamlene, Thomas Hinckley, Nathaniel Bacon, and Dolor Davis." From this we know that he was admitted as a freeman to the Colony March 1, 1641-42, and in the year 1643 we find his name on the list of those able to bear arms. He was a follower of the Rev. Mr. John Lothrop, who came in the year 1604 from England with a band of Pilgrims who were driven from home by religious persecution. According to Mr. Otis, who is an authority on the customs of the early colonists, James Hamlin was never given the title of "Mister," which was reserved for the governor and other State officers, for ministers, elders of the church, schoolmasters, military officers, or people of great wealth or aristocratic connection. Other members of the colony were simply called "Goodman." Says Mr. Otis: "Goodman Hamblen was not much in public life. He was an honest man, a good neighbor, and a sincere Christian; he was industrious and prudent in his habits and brought up his children to walk in his footsteps. His descendants have with few exceptions, inherited the good qualities of the ancestor." We note from this that the name of our subject was

spelled Hamblen by so good an authority as Mr. Otis, and we will find in the early records that it is spelled in many different ways, but perhaps the final authority should be Mr. Hamlin himself, who, in signing his will, spelled it Hamlin. He made his home near what was known as Coggin's pond at Barnstable, which is a charming sheet of water, the country all about being delightfully fertile and now dotted by well-kept farms. James Hamlin married Ann ——, and she and a number of his children are mentioned in his will, a most interesting old document, which begins as follows: "I being weake in body but throu ye mercy of God of good and disposing mind and memory, and calling to mind ye uncertainty of this transitory life, and being willing to sett things in order as there may be peace and good agreement between my children after my decease, I do make and declare this my last will and testament in manner and forme hereafter mentioned, viz. :—." His wife Ann was appointed executrix, and in the body of the will mention is made of many old possessions, which, did they exist to-day, would be regarded as priceless heirlooms by his family. In especial he speaks of two old pewter platters, the last of a set, the rest of which had been distributed among his married children, which he wished to be given to his daughter Sarah and his son Israel, the former to have her choice of them. This will was dated January 23, 1683, and proved October 22, 1690.

The parish records of St. Lawrence, Reading, Berkshire, in England, contain what are the baptisms of James Hamlin's children, born in that country, and from others we find in the Colony appear the dates of those who were born in the New World.