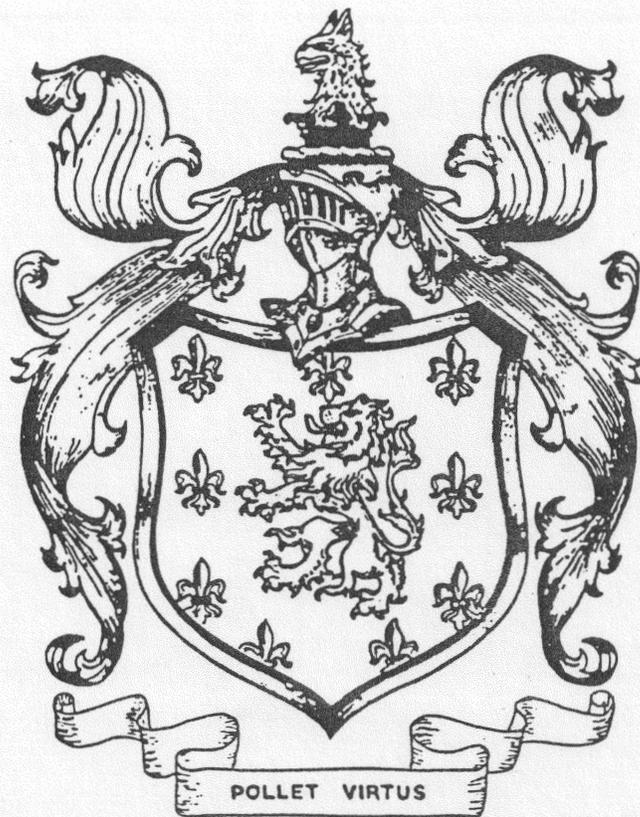


DESCENDANTS
OF
JOHN AND PRISCILLA POOLE
OF
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND



Poole

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THE POOLES OF POOLESVILLE

by
Martha Sprigg Poole

In Northern Montgomery County, Maryland, there is a small town called Poolesville. Its founding father was one John Poole (I), who, about 1800, had a store which served as the nucleus of the town that subsequently grew up around it.

John Poole (I) was the son of Richard Poole who was living in All Hallows Parish, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in 1730. In that year the Church records show that on February 24th, Richard Poole was married to Mary Phelps, daughter of Walter Phelps; also are recorded the births of their nine children.

Richard was living as late as 1759, for in that year the Maryland Gazette, an Annapolis newspaper, reported that a horse had strayed from Richard's plantation at the head of South River. No record of Richard's death nor any administration on his estate has been found.¹

You will notice that this information is in conflict with the information discussed in the previous three pages entitled "The First Generations." Since Martha Sprigg Poole wrote this essay, this new information has been made available and seems to refute this line of thinking.

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Richard's son, John (I), was born March 21, 1733, and baptized April 28, 1734. Twenty-seven years later he acquired by purchase from Charles Hoskinson, part of Resurvey on Elizabeth's Delight, 238 acres. On this tract the present town of Poolesville is located.

Apparently John stayed on at Annapolis for a while. In 1767, he leased his part of Elizabeth's Delight to Michael Coates, a carpenter. In recording this lease, John Poole is called a "scrivener"; according to tradition, "he wrote in the Land Office at Annapolis."

About 1770, John Poole (I) and his family moved to the new home. The Census of 1776 for Sugarland Hundred (then Frederick County, but soon to become Montgomery County) shows:

John Poole (I)	age 43
John (II)	age 7
Sary	age 28
Elizabeth	age 6
Ann	age 4
Sary	age 1

¹All Hallows Parish Records also show the marriage on April 12, 1703, of a Richard Poole to Johanna Duvall. She was buried March 19, 1711. Their oldest son, Robert, born January 31, 1708, became a doctor of medicine in England where he married September 9, 1742, Ann, daughter of Sir Samuel Gower (Knight); and their oldest son, Samuel Gower Poole, was born July 26, 1748. The latter, as oldest son of oldest son, claimed the lands of Johanna Duval, his grandmother, and they were awarded to him by the Ann Arundel County Court, 1768.

From this, it would appear that John had married Sarah about 1768. We do not know Sarah's maiden name. From a recorded Deed it is shown that Sarah's mother was named Elizabeth and that Elizabeth in 1777 was the wife of John Owen. Family tradition, however, maintains that Elizabeth Owen had formerly been married to a man named Collier, and that Sarah Poole was a child of the former marriage and was named Sarah Collier.

In 1769, John Poole (I)'s brother, Joseph, took over some of John's land and moved to what became Poolesville. Joseph lived and raised a family on his 70 acres, and Joseph's descendants continued to reside in the area.

During the rest of his life, John (I) entered into various real estate transactions, but did not acquire a large estate.² It is probable that he lived on his property (later known as the Mossburg farm), about one-half mile north of Poolesville. The house on this place has a very old kitchen which may well be part of the original house. Near the house there was formerly a family burying ground, from which the tombstones have been removed.

The Will of John Poole (I), proved January 30, 1816, shows bequests to his son, John Poole (II), and to his four daughters:

Elizabeth, wife of Hanbury Jones
Ann, wife of Francis Piles
Priscilla
Rebecca

Some years before his death (May 11, 1799), John Poole (I) deeded to his son, John Poole (II), 15 acres, part of Poole's Right running along the north side of what is now the Main Street of Poolesville (then called Coxen's Road). Here John Poole (II) built the first house in what became the town of Poolesville in which it is said he lived and kept store. This house³ has been sometimes referred to as the Money House, presumably after a Mrs. Money, who is shown on G. D. Hopkins' map as living there in 1878.

On December 31, 1799, John (II) obtained license to marry Mary Priscilla Woodward Sprigg, daughter of Major Frederick Sprigg, and his wife, Deborah Woodward. The Sprigg family was prominent in Maryland history, various members holding from time to time high civil and military offices.

Before this marriage took place, Major Frederick Sprigg had died and Priscilla had inherited from her father a large tract near Barnesville known as Happy Choice Fortified, 404-1/4 acres. John and Priscilla moved there soon after their marriage and spent the rest of their lives on that land.

John Poole (II) prospered and acquired various tracts in the Barnesville and Poolesville areas, in addition to those he inherited from his father, and the Sprigg lands of his wife. At the time of his death he owned some 600 acres appraised at \$12,218.33; also five lots in Barnesville valued at \$1,350.00.

²Resurvey on Elizabeth's Delight (Poole's part) was resurveyed successively into (1) Poole's Chance, 308 acres, 1762; (2) Poole's Rectification, 332 acres, 1769; (3) Poole's Right, 119-1/2 acres, 1785.

³Richard Poole Hankins of Richmond, Virginia, has the original deed of this property as well as a number of other old original papers pertaining to the family land holdings.

The births of the children of John (II) and Priscilla are recorded in the Records of St. Peter's Parish, of which the family were members. For some years John (II) was a Justice of the Peace. His death in March 30, 1828 is recorded thus in a newspaper of the time: "Died Sunday at his residence near Barnesville, Montgomery County, John Poole, Sr., an old and very respectable inhabitant of the County."

There was no will, so Priscilla administered the estate and was guardian of the minor children. Subsequently, a Commission divided John (II)'s lands among his ten children. These were:

1. John Sprigg, b. August 16, 1801
2. Thomas Sprigg, b. July 11, 1803
3. William Dennis, b. August 18, 1805
4. Eliza, b. June 23, 1807
5. Frederick Sprigg, b. June 19, 1809
6. Sarah Elizabeth, b. March 16, 1812
7. Isaac Richard, b. July 26, 1815
8. Ann Priscilla Woodward, b. July 6, 1818
9. Mary Tomsey, b. June 23, 1821
10. Martha Deborah, b. June 23, 1821

All these children spent their lives in the Poolesville area. John Sprigg lived for a time in Clarksburg. Thomas became a physician and built the handsome brick house on the main street in Poolesville. William Dennis lived in a large frame house opposite St. Peter's Church in Poolesville. Eliza married Leonard Hays and lived in Barnesville. Frederick married Mary Wilson and lived in the former Wilson home next door to his brother, Thomas. Sarah married successively two Jones brothers, the latter of whom had been the husband of her sister, Mary, who had died. Sarah lived a few miles east of Poolesville in a charming stone house. All of these houses are in use today. Isaac Richard died without issue and Martha Deborah died unmarried. Ann Priscilla married William O. Sellman and lived near Barnesville on part of the Sprigg property.

Most of the grandchildren of John (II) and Priscilla continued to live in the Poolesville area. Several of the Sellman family went to Texas. With the next generation, however, their descendants have scattered. Many do not know about their ancestors and have lost touch with their relatives.