

ROBERT AMBLER

Robert Ambler was born on March 12, 1836 in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. His parents David Ambler and Margaret Hallowell were Quakers (as was Robert) and they were married in Plymouth Monthly Meeting, Montgomery County, PA in 1815. Quaker meeting minutes record the movement of members from one meeting to another, and in 1853 there is a record of David and Margaret Ambler with their family moving from Gwynedd Meeting in Montgomery County, PA to Little Falls Meeting in Harford County, Maryland with no other movement that I've seen. With that information and a census record stating Montgomery County I assume that Robert was born in Montgomery County, PA. His birth date is recorded on the back of his parents marriage record in the Quaker records and in his death certificate and his Find A Grave Record. Robert is the 10th of 12 children born to David and Margaret.

The first government record I have that lists Robert by name is the 1850 Federal Census. Here he is listed with his parents and siblings in Gwynedd, Montgomery, Pennsylvania.

Robert Ambler married Mary L Bartelson sometime around 1856. I have not yet found a specific record dating their marriage, or confirming her full name, but there are a number of pieces of evidence that make this a likely conclusion. I'll list some of the detail here and try to keep it concise. In the 1850 Federal Census, there is a Mary L Bartelson approximate age 13 living with Mark and Mary Bartelson in Radnor, Delaware, PA. In the Little Falls Meeting minutes in 1857 there is a note that two friends were sent to talk with Robert Ambler about a marriage he had accomplished via an alderman of Philadelphia and that they believed him to be "guilty of unchastity". The next minutes report that the committee had visited with Robert with a good degree of satisfaction and there had been no breach of testimony. However, I find no listing of his wife's name, no record yet found with the Aldermen, and no record of Mary's membership in the meeting. In the 1860 census there is a Mary L Ambler approximate age 23 married to Robert Ambler living in Plymouth, Montgomery, PA. This couple has two sons David Horace age 3 and Mark Bartelson age 1. I then find a grave for Mary L Ambler in the Radnor Friends Burial Ground. Mary was buried on March 19, 1865 at age 25, calculating a birth date of about 1840. This is slightly different from the census, but plausible. There are also other Bartelsons in the cemetery, but they do not appear to be siblings of Mary. In the 1870 census Mark B Ambler age 11 is living with or near (the dwelling numbers recorded in the census are strange) Mark and Mary Bartelson and William Bartelson who is believed at this point to be a son of Mark and Mary as he is also listed with them in prior census records. There are no relationships listed in the 1870 census, so this is still a bit circumstantial. The telling piece is the 1880 Federal Census. In this census relationships are listed. Living with Mark Bartelson (Mary must be deceased as she isn't listed) are his son William Bartelson, and Bartelson Ambler (this must be Mark Bartelson Ambler) age 21 who is listed as grandson. Mark Bartelson Ambler lists Robert Ambler as his father on his death certificate with no mother and the

other two children of Robert and Mary do not have parents listed in their death records that I have found. I will continue to do some looking, but I believe these pieces of evidence point to Mary L Bartelson as the first wife of Robert Ambler.

In April of 1859, the Little Falls Meeting records that Robert Ambler has asked for a certificate to Gwynned Meeting.

In the 1860 Federal Census Robert is listed in Plymouth, Montgomery, Pennsylvania where he lists his occupation as a farmer and the value of his personal estate at \$628.

In 1866 Robert married Sarah W Hamilton. I again do not have an official marriage record for them, but the 1900 Federal Census lists their marriage year as 1866 and their first child is born in 1868. The 1866 date from the census is believable.

Robert Ambler, Sarah and their children are listed in the Green Street Monthly Meeting with Robert arriving in 1867.

The 1870 Federal Census shows Robert in Philadelphia Ward 13 District 39, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He lists his occupation as milk dealer and personal real estate valued at \$1500. What is interesting in this census is that Robert has his oldest son from his first marriage, David Horace with him with his new wife and their oldest child. His second son with Mary is living with his Grandfather Mark Bartelson, and the only daughter from his first marriage is living with Robert's sister Sarah Ambler Conard.

In the 1880 Federal Census Robert is reported in 597, Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He lists his occupation as "Flour Business". In this census he is shown with his second wife Sarah, her children and his daughter Mary E. His son Mark B is still living with his grandfather.

The 1900 Federal Census shows Robert and his family in District 1704, Philadelphia Ward 29, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He lists his occupation as "Merchant – Provisions" and states that they rent their home. Sarah lists that she has had 5 children with 4 living. All four of Sarah's children are with them at this point. We also see with them Ruth Hamilton who is listed as a sister-in-law.

Robert died on February 2, 1910 as listed in his death record and his Find A Grave Record. His death record records his parents. Robert is buried in Plymouth Meeting Friends Cemetery in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. Robert's death is recognized in the Philadelphia Inquirer on Feb 9, 1910, but no details in an obituary.

Robert and Mary L had the following three children

- **David Horace Ambler (1857-1879)**
- **Mark Bartelson Ambler (1859 – 1934)**
- **Mary Ellen Ambler (1860 – 1891)**

Robert and Sarah had the following five children

- **Harry F Ambler (1868 – 1911)**
- **Jesse H Ambler (1870 – 1954)**
- **Lewis C Ambler (1874 – 1874)**
- **Elizabeth Lewis Ambler (1876 – 1952)**
- **Anna Margaret Ambler (1885 - ?)**

MARY L BARTELSON

Mary Bartelson was born in about 1840 in Pennsylvania as recorded in census records and what is believed to be her Find A Grave Record. From some of the information presented above I have placed her with her parents Mark Bartelson and Mary McKnight. From the records I have found Mary is the 6th of 8 children born to Mark and Mary and is the only daughter.

We can only identify Mary in a few records to date. She is seen in the 1850 Census in Radnor, Delaware, Pennsylvania with Mark Bartelson.

Mary is also seen in the 1860 census with Robert Ambler and two children. The third, Mary Ellen was born after the 1860 census was taken.

Mary died in March 1865 and is buried in the Radnor Friends Cemetery on March, 19, 1865 as recorded in the Pennsylvania Church Records in Ancestry.

There are still some unanswered questions with Mary's short life, and hopefully more searching will uncover additional records.