

Larsh

The origin of the name is German. It is also spelled Laersch, Larsch, Lorsch, Larch, Lorsh, Loersch, and Lierch.

The first person of this family to come to America was Valentine Larsh who was born in Laubersheim in the Palatinate. He arrived in Philadelphia from Rotterdam via Cowes, England aboard the snow (ship) "Charlotta", Captain John Mason, master, on September 5th, 1743. There after he took an Oath of Allegiance (Qualifications to the government of Pennsylvania) in the presence of Governor George Thomas. On October 17th, 1748, he married Anna Margaretha Mayerin in the German Reformed church in Philadelphia. She was born at Alsheim in the Palatinate and died in Baltimore after 1781.

After his arrival in Baltimore in 1740 Valentine, described as a Pennsylvania German, leased lot number 34 from Andrew Steiger, a German butcher by trade. Valentine later acquired lots number 70, 105 and 106 from Thomas Harrison, merchant. In 1753 he opened an inn which he had built on the southwest corner of Baltimore and Gay Streets. The business proved to be so prosperous that another German, Jacob Meyer was encouraged to open another inn in 1758.

In 1756/57 he was on the committee to build the First German Reformed Congregation church in Baltimore which had been founded in 1750. (Heinrick Lorch, who may have been Valentine's relative is also listed as an outstanding member of this Church.)

Earlier in November 1757, the Baltimore County court appointed him overseer of roads "from the foot of Baltimore Town bridge to Carroll's Mill and from Fell's Mill on Jones Falls until it intersects the aforesaid road from Baltimore Town to the Ferry Point (Ferry Bar) and from Baltimore Forge (at what is now where Wilkens Avenue crosses Gwynn's Falls) to Baltimore Town. At the same time Charles Carroll was appointed overseer to an adjacent territory.

In 1760 he engaged in additional real estate transactions by acquiring lot number 61 from Nathaniel Waters and by leasing parts of lot number 70 from Benjamin Swope and Jacob Meyers, an innkeeper.

On April 19, 1760 Valentine Larsh purchased mill property three miles from Baltimore Town from George Nicholas Meyers, a German miller who had built the establishment about 1753. The tract on Herring Run was part of a 386 acre grant named "Broad's Improvement" which was patented in 1732 by Thomas Broad. The price of 300 pounds sterling included stock, the plantation of 170 acres, implements other items which are listed in the book "Reister's Desire" and lot number 84 on the west side of Jones Falls in Baltimore Town. The deed was acknowledged by the grantor and his wife on the same day.

About this time the congregation of the First Reformed church of Baltimore appointed Valentine Larsh, Andrew Steiger, Frederick Meyer, Jacob Keeports, John Soller and Conrad Smith to a committee to superintend the building of a church. It appears that Valentine had left the German Reformed Congregation mentioned above because on August 29, 1763 the above

committee signed their names in German script to a deed in trust to the Elders of the Dutch Reformed Calvinist Congregation of Baltimore for the amount of 18 pounds sterling for lots number 151 and 152 on the west side of Jones Falls in the second addition to Baltimore Town. (Was this a sale of the old German Reformed church building to the First Presbyterian Congregation?) This land was purchased from Charles Carroll of Annapolis on the 10th of April, 1760. The signatures were witnessed by N. Ruxton Gay and acknowledgement was made by the grantors and their wives: Mary Larsh, Margaret Smith and Elizabeth Keepots on the same day in August.

Valentine Larsh took his Oath of Fidelity as shown on James Calhoun's Baltimore County returns in 1778. His son-in-law George Deggon (Dagon) also took the oath and his name is on Frederick Decker's Baltimore County returns.

By June 8, 1779 Valentine advertised the sale of his mill, including a stone mill house. On October 8, 1779 he sold the property to William Smith and William Neil for 25,000 Pounds. The mill was then named "Smith's Mill" as was the access road now named Harford Road. Adjoining acreage in the tract of "Broads Improvement" was later acquired by General Sam Smith as part of his large estate "Montebello".

In his will dated January 1st, 1781 "Valentine Larsh, merchant of Baltimore Town provides for wife (not named), devises: to son Abraham the lot opposite Market Street to daughters Eleanor and Susannah two houses on the north side of Market Street; to children of daughter Elizabeth, wife of Frederick Moops; bequests to daughter Catherine wife of George Dagon. Executor: son Abraham. Witnesses: Jacob Walsh, John Shutz and George Devillis Probated: 30 January 1781. Valentine maintained a residence in Fredericksburg, Virginia. His obituary records: "Larsh, Valentine, of Fredericksburg, Virginia died in Baltimore January 14, 1781. According to an item in "Gleanings from Maryland Newspapers 1786-1790" by Robert Barnes, an obituary from one paper states "Valentine Larsh died Sunday last a gentleman of very respectable character" dated 23, January 1781. The Maryland Journal has the same quote dated September 16, 1783.

Valentine's son Abraham was probably born in Pennsylvania circa 1750-53. About 1779, he married Margaret Gardner, the daughter of Peter Gardner of York County, Pennsylvania.

Abraham Larsh was the executor of the estate of the late William Piper of Baltimore Town on the 27th of May 1785 as reported on July 27, 1787.

On the 28th of October 1790, John Basey, son of John Basey of Baltimore County, deceased, is being sued by Abraham Larsh, son of Valentine Larsh concerning a mortgage on a tract called "Buck's Purchase", 100 acres. The defendant has moved to Virginia.

Note: Isaac Larsh (relationship not established) died 9th inst aged 24 years on 15th of January 1805.

By 1790 he is listed in the first United States census in Baltimore with his family as follows: one male over 16 (head of household); two males under 16 and five females. At this

time he was living at "Soldiers Delight" in Baltimore County. A Federal Assessment in 1798 listed his property: Number 3425 - owner Abraham Larsh, occupant- Joseph Butler. Part of sundry tracts totaling 109 acres; Part of "Beef Hall" totaling 150 acres: One round log dwelling house of one and one half stories 23 feet by 18 feet valued at \$522.00. At the time of the assessment Abraham was living in a house in Reisterstown that was owned by his sister-in-law, Eve Reister. He was a merchant and probably an inn keeper.

His will dated April 11, 1805 devises: to wife Margaret; life interest in the house on Gay Street in Baltimore town; to son Abraham to divide the estate equally between the children (not named) as each reaches age 21; a share of daughter Susan, wife of Isaak Dickson to be held in trust, she to receive the principle at the decease of her husband; also mentions the land "Broads Choice", "Broads Improvement", Lot number 70 on Gay Street in Baltimore Town and land in "Tawney Town" (Taneytown). Executors: wife and son Abraham. Witnesses: W. Blatzer Shaeffer, Peter Hoffman Jr. and W. McMechan. In 1807 Abraham (styled "Gentleman") was domiciled also at Green Street near Franklin Street. By 1810 his address was at north Liberty Street. Also in 1807 Abraham Jr. had a dry goods store at 91 Baltimore Street. By 1808 he moved the store to the southwest corner of Baltimore and Gay streets until 1816 when he moved the store to 237 Baltimore Street where he remained through 1823. Abraham died in Baltimore County before February 24, 1810. The following November 21, 1811, the heirs of Abraham petitioned the Chancery court for division and distribution of the estate. His property was ordered sold. His widow, Margaret died intestate in 1829. Her son Silas, administrator of her estate made an accounting to the Court on December 21, 1830 and again on May 27, 1831. The children of Abraham and Margaret Gardiner Larch are as follows:

Susannah was born in 1779 and died April 12, 1840. She married Major (later General) Isaac Dixon, officer in the Maryland Militia, Aide de Camp to Brigadier General Charles Ridgely, and Justice of the peace in Baltimore County. Abraham Jr. was born after 1774 and died after May the 27, 1831. He was married on March 1, 1810 by the Reverend Armstrong to Catherine Worthington, daughter of Samuel Worthington and his second wife, Martha Garrettson. At the time of his marriage announcement he was referred to as a Baltimore Merchant. In the war of 1812, Abraham was a private in Captain Sterrett's Independent Company, First Baltimore Hussars of Maryland Militia. He was a storekeeper in Reisterstown. On March 30, 1805 he bought lots number 11 and 12 on the southwest corner of the main road and Church Street. He also owned part of "The Chase".

Sarah was born after 1784 and died before November 21, 1811. She was married in Baltimore on January the fourth 1806 by the Reverend Mr. Sargent to the Reverend Daniel Fidler. Maria was born in 1789 and died on January 31, 1867. She married her first cousin Phillip Reister, Jr.

Rebecca, born in Baltimore after 1784 died on October 2, 1847 at the residence of her brother-in-law Phillip Reister, Esquire after a protracted illness of two years and eight months. She was buried in the Lutheran Cemetery at Reisterstown (?). Her will dated July 15, 1849 names sister Louisa Ann Harris, niece, Margaret Gardiner Harris, Julia Virginia and Edward Livingston Larsh (children of brother Silas), sister Mary Reister, nephew William Fidler and brother Silas. The executrix was Louisa A. Harris. Witnesses were William Dwyer and Margaret Sumwalt.

Charles was born August 1795 and died January 27, 1829. He was a storekeeper in Reisterstown and a private in Captain Leverings Independent Blues in the war of 1812. Louisa Ann was born in Baltimore County in 1800 and died at Reisterstown on September 29, 1875 aged 76 years, the relic (widow) of Thomas W. Harris whom she married on October 17, 1822. He was from Calvert County and died before the census of 1850. Their (only?) daughter was Margaret Gardiner Harris who died on May 7, 1856. As a widow Louisa Ann Harris lived in Phillip Reister Jr.'s home and was buried in the Lutheran Cemetery.

Silas was born in Baltimore County in 1805. He graduated from the University of Maryland Medical School (The seventh oldest College of Medicine in the United States) in 1826 and was admitted to the Medical and Chirurgical Faculty of Maryland in 1827. On December 27, 1832 he married Emma Adams at St. Patrick's Church on Broadway in Baltimore. She was the daughter of Captain Alexander J.C. Adams (see Adams Family). In 1840 Silas was listed as a resident of the fifth district of Baltimore city. In January, 1849, Silas, his sister Louisa Harris and his brother-in-law Phillip Reister Jr. assigned the Moses Sheppard lot at Baltimore and Gay streets which was leased by his grandfather Valentine in 1760. Dr. Larsh practiced medicine at Reisterstown in Baltimore County. He once served as a member of the Constitutional convention of Maryland in 1864 as a representative of and for Baltimore County. The children of Silas and Emma were Julia Virginia who was born October 10, 1833, Edward Livingston born 1835 and Emma who married John Sullivan. Julia Virginia married Isaac Mohler (see Mohler Family). Dr. Silas had three nephews who became medical doctors which provided four doctors in the family at the same time. His extensive properties can be found on a map of Baltimore County displayed at the Peale Museum on Holiday Street near the Baltimore City Hall. Silas died on April 28, 1866 aged 61 years. Emma died June 2, 1857 before the 1850 census was taken at age 67 plus.

Refernces:

Reister's Desire by Lillian Bayley Marks
p2,20,36,38,42,77,78,90,126,142,179,180,183,197,200,206,210
SEE MOHLER FAMILY