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Genealogical Notes

on

The Emory Family of Maryland

The ancestors of the present Emory and Amory families of America were the same and for many generations prior to 1700 were residents and land owners in the adjoining counties of Somerset and Devon and Gloucester in England. Early local records also indicate a branch of the family in Essex about 1634.

The present name of Emory-Amory was, so far as can be determined, originally Amauri, in France about the 12th century, and during a period of about three hundred years the spelling of the name was changed to D'Amorie, Amorie, D'Amory and about 1600 became Amory and Emory.

Regardless of the several variations in spelling by certain generations of the family, which was characteristic of that period, the pronunciation of the name as Em-ory has remained the same since the very earliest times. In this connection it is interesting to note the following extract from a letter dated May 15, 1731, Bristol, England, to Thomas C. Amory of Boston from a cousin, a Mrs. Julia O'Connor: "I have some papers in my hand weh cou'd give you light weh is your right in the county Kerry whither I am bound soon from this place (Bristol) where I have been about a fortnight and have been making inquiry of some of yr relations, the Emorys, for so they write their name, about yr estate in Somersetshire and they tell me it is in very good condition . . . . ." Page 106-107 (The Descendants of Hugh Amory, 1605-1805 by Gertrude E. Meredith, London, 1901).