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# BALL FAMILY

OF

# New England

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**ARMS:** Argent a lion passant sable, on a chief of the second three mullets of the first.

**CREST:** A stag trippant ppr.

**MOTTO:** "Semper Cave".



Keuka Park, May 25, 1901.

My Dear Kindred.

I should like to write every one of you personally, but you are so many I can only address you wholesale, and in print

Mr. Frederick G. Ball, of the Webb C. Ball Watch Co., Cleveland, Ohio, has issued a Booklet calling for an assembly of the "Ball family" August 27-29, at Keuka College, on Keuka Park, Yates Co., N. Y.

I am personally grateful and feel specially honored by the choice of Keuka College as the place of meeting, because much of my life, and much of the substance of those very near me, have entered into it, and because the objects and work of the College so perfectly accord with the tribal life of the Ball family. It will give me great joy to welcome a host of my kinsmen to this garden of beauty on the shore of Lake Keuka.

I desire very much to have as perfect a record as possible of our family in the College library, and specially request every probable or possible descendant of Rev. John Ball, of Oxford, England, to write me at once, giving name, age, address, and parentage, as far back as possible, and also send photograph. If any are too old, or too young, or too infirm to write, some one please report for them. Write on good paper and on one side only, so that the letters can be filed in good form.

Please send for and distribute the "Booklet" and help to make the assembly a success worthy of the Ball family.

They are a host. It is expected that many of them



will visit the Pan-American exhibition, and plan to run out to the College, and meet their consins, hear addresses, papers, poems, and songs, and have a good time generally on the Lake and in the Park. Their genealogy goes back, with moral certainty, to Rev. John Ball, of Oxfordshire, England, a Puritan of note, born in 1585. His sons and grandsons were numerous, and many of them came to America about 1640, and settled in New England, and scattered thence South and West. Their precise relationship is not easily traced, but existing records show that the Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Virginia branches of the family recognized each other as akin, and visited and corresponded as such. Their physical resemblance and their mental and religious characteristics support this presumption. They have ever belonged to the great "middle class," neither very high nor very low, but have been fond of land and learning; given to reading and religion, positive in convictions, bold of utterance, and independent in action.

Rev. John Ball was graduated from Oxford University, and scores of his American descendants have been College men and women, as College records East, West, and South do show. Among them have been artists, inventors, Christian ministers, physicians, lawyers, statesmen, officers in the army and navy, but the mass of them have led humble Christian lives on farms, in shops, in the various ranks of honest industry. The most noted characters in the family are George Washington, the "Father of his Country," and Mrs. Mary Bickerdyke, one of the greatest of the organizers of relief measures for sick and wounded soldiers in the Civil War. The mother of Washington was Mary Ball, granddaughter of Col. William Ball, of Virginia, and "Mother Bickerdyke," as the soldiers called her, was Mary Ball, daugh-

ter of David Ball, of Ohio, one of the same stock from the midland of England.

One of the principal hives of the family is in New Jersey, where my father was born, and they are worthy people. Edward Ball, their pioneer, was a leading member of the church which moved, as a body, from Connecticut to New Jersey, in 1666, for religious considerations, and founded the city of Newark. He contributed large service as a surveyor and organizer, and in addition, a host of children and grand children to the State. Their offspring have scattered far and wide, yet they still abound in the old counties of Essex, Union, Morris, and Monmouth, and retain, very largely, the same characteristics which distinguished their ancestors. For seven years the armies marched, fought, and camped in this region, during the Revolutionary War, and twenty-one of the New Jersey Balls were enrolled as privates, and nine as officers, on Washington's side, and were recognized by him as relatives. Some of them were killed in battle, one was seized and forced into the British navy, one was hung as a spy, and the several families suffered terror, robbery, and flames from the English and Hessians who prowled among and around them those seven years of horrid war. A record of their service and sacrifice in the Civil War, as well as on lines of industry, education, and reform, is equally interesting and creditable.

There are good reasons for the proposed assembly. It will warm our Puritan blood to meet and recount the sober, honest doings of our ancestry, their piety and loyalty, and their service to the church and the world. We owe them reverence, and need the inspiration of their example. Perhaps the Chinese overdo reverence for ancestry, but Americans are surely at fault for indifference to the past and to parentage. The life of a family should be a perpetual and increasing inspiration. Remembrance

of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob was a potent factor in giving the Hebrews strength of character, individuality, and endurance. Family compacts better preserve ancestral virtues than is possible where no such associations and remembrances are cherished. God deals with us first of all by families, and visits the virtues of the fathers unto the children for a thousand generations to those who remember Him and the good start in life a strong and righteous parentage has given them.

By marriage many other family names have been joined to our historic tree. The offspring of the daughters are heirs the same as of the sons, and all of them should be zealous to share the benefits and the service of association. Lost links of genealogy should deter no one from assuming relationship, and seeking fellowship. The spiritual ties, after all, are paramount, for they are the stuff which formed our family life.

Is it not incumbent on the living generation of the family, now very numerous and widely scattered, to gather up and preserve the history of their ancestors? We may well be proud of the deeds of such forefathers as we had, and zealously perpetuate the memory of their contribution, both in peace and war, to the independence and growth of the nation. The history of the family has been creative, productive, making for increase, self-help, and prosperity at large. Its members have the habit of undertaking, venturing, and doing.

Let us make the meeting at Kenka Park large and interesting, the family fraternal and helpful, and its history tangible and as complete as possible.

*Yours Very Truly,*

*Geo. S. Ball*



**DESCENDENTS OF  
EDWARD BALL  
BRANFORD, CONN.**

The descendants of Edward Ball, of Branford, Conn., propose an assembly or convention of the Ball Tribe, at Keuka Park, N. Y., August 27-29, 1901. It is the object and purpose of this convention, to put on foot an effort to trace the ancestors of the Balls as far back in England as is possible. On the cover of this booklet you will note a striking similarity of arms indicating a common ancestry of the Virginia or Mary (Ball) Washington, and the New England Balls, and an effort will be made to establish this connection if possible.

It is the desire that all branches of the Ball family, as well as their descendants shall participate.

Edward Ball was himself a noted Puritan of the Puritans. Whether he was born in America or England is not known. His name appears among the first settlers of Branford, Conn., A. D. 1665. On Oct. 30th, 1666, he was one of the original signers of an agreement,

made by those who were about to remove to Newark, the most noticeable article of which was not to admit as freemen, etc., any but church members. In 1667 he was at Newark, N. J., and was assessed in the first list of taxables July 1st, 1667. He was a very important man in the affairs of the new settlement, holding many positions of trust and honor. In 1683 he was appointed on a committee to settle certain differences between the settlers and the Lord Proprietors, and was continued on this very important committee from year to year, while all his associates were changed. In 1693 he received the appointment of High Sheriff of the County.

It is with no small degree of pride that we can look back upon ancestors who were an honor to their race; who were of a high degree of intelligence, morality and patriotism, and whose descendants to the present day still possess these same qualities to a marked degree.

Keuka is a seat of learning, and is situated on one of the most beautiful of the finger lakes of Northern New York. Our kinsman, Geo. H. Ball, A. M., D. D., is president of the institution, and the

prime mover in this tribe assembly movement.

Keuka has been selected because of its nearness to Buffalo, and the Pan-American Exposition (to which place excursion rates can be had at any time during the Exposition), and because of its unusual adaptability for the accommodation of gatherings of this nature.

All descendants of the Balls are invited to participate, and bring or send, as full and complete history and record of themselves and their ancestors as possible. Much information in the way of history, data, tradition, etc., has already been collected, and much is in the hands of individuals who for personal gratification have traced their ancestors back to the early settlers. The tribe is numerous and widely distributed in America, and its history deserves to be collected and preserved, and it is hoped this Assembly will result in large additions to the stock in hand, and lead to a publication of special interest to the tribe, and of value to general history.

Those who expect to attend are requested to advise President G. H. Ball of their intentions, not later than August

20th, 1901. This is very important, as it will be necessary to know what provision to make for the proper accommodation for all who attend.

Expenses during your stay will be very moderate, not exceeding one dollar per day.

After an address of welcome by the orator of the day, a resume of the tribes from the earliest emigrant down to the present generation will be presented by members of their respective tribes. It is desired that this assembly shall resolve itself into a national organization, with President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian and Associate Historian, and to hold these meetings or tribe unions annually or biennially. State or local associations will do much towards creating an interest in the family history, and it is hoped family reunions will be organized throughout the country and work in conjunction with the national organization.

Keuka Park can be reached by way of the New York Central, changing at Lyons or Geneva to the Pennsylvania Division of the New York Central (Fall Brook) or at Canandaigua to the North-

ern Central for Penn Yan, the county seat, which is connected with Keuka College by lake steamer or electric cars. Passengers by the way of the New York, Lake Erie & Western, and the Delaware, Lackawanna & Western, change at Elmira to the Northern Central for Penn Yan, or at Bath for Hammondsport and lake steamer to the College.



Further information may be obtained by  
addressing any one of the following:

GEO. H. BALL, A. M., D. D.

PRES. KEUKA COLLEGE,  
KEUKA PARK, N. Y.

FREDERICK G. BALL,

Care THE WEBB C. BALL Co.  
BALL BLDG., CLEVELAND, O.

CLARA E. BALL,

HANOVER, N. J.

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**FREDERICK G. BALL**

**HISTORIAN TO THE TRIBE**

**CLARA E. BALL**

**ASSOCIATE HISTORIAN**



**COL. WILLIAM BALL  
OF VIRGINIA**

**Great Grandfather of  
Gen. Geo. Washington**



**ARMS:** Argent a lion passant sable, on a chief of the second three mullets of the first.

**CREST:** Out of the clouds proper a demi-lion rampant, sable powdered with estoilles argent, holding a globe.

**MOTTO:** "Coeb unique tueri". *PK*











MAR 13 1930

