



Mershon News Bulletin

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE DESCENDANTS OF HENRY MERSHON
ORGANIZED AT TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, SEPTEMBER 8th, 1923

Mershon Name

MARCHAND (French) - MARCHANT (Middle-English) - MERCHANT (Modern-English) - MARSCHAN (Dutch) - Mershon (Phonetic)

June 2015

2015 Mershon Association Annual Meeting Scheduled for July 25th

**Please join us for our 2015 Mershon Association
Annual Meeting and Reunion, beginning at 10 AM
on Saturday, July 25th.**

We are meeting in the Lawrence Headquarters Branch of the Mercer County Library, 2751 Brunswick Pike (US 1-Business), Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. We will be in Community Meeting Rooms 1&2. The library is at the intersection of US 1-Business and Darrah Lane. This is the same location as last year.



A variety of catered box lunches will be available for those attending this meeting.

Special Programs:

Richard Patterson, Executive Director of the Old Barracks Museum in Trenton, will present a program titled *The Common Soldier of the Revolutionary War*, examining men in the ranks on both sides of the conflict, with information on demographics, motivation, training, and performance. Richard's presentation will include reproductions, slides and other graphics. This will be interesting because many of our Mershon ancestors served in the Revolutionary War.

**We have a group rate for lodging at the Homewood Suites of Princeton, 3819 US
Route 1 at Mapleton Road, Princeton, NJ 08540.**

See the registration form on page 11 for more information.

Laura Nawrocik of the Mercer County Library Staff will show us the draft for a poster describing the history of the Princessville Inn on the Princeton Pike. Photographs and information from our Mershon archives have contributed to the development of this poster that will be displayed at the Brearley House, operated by the Lawrence Historical Society.

Special Opportunity: Tour the former Andrew Mershon Colonial Tavern & Inn and meet Elmer Smith, the man responsible for saving and restoring our ancestor's home! Elmer and Ann Smith have recently signed a sale contract, scheduled for closing on August 20th (see related article on page 8). Our access to this historic Mershon home, near Titusville, NJ, is uncertain after the sale. We will carpool from the library at approximately 3:30 PM.

Silent Auction to benefit our Mershon Association: A framed 3' x 3' latch-hook Mershon Family Crest donated by Christina Mershon Chamberlin of Flemington, NJ, will be offered for silent auction at our meeting. The Crest was crafted by Christina's mother, May E. Mershon (1914-1999), wife of former Mershon Association President, James H. Mershon (1913-2003).



Latch-hook Mershon Family Crest

Doris Harris will also offer several of her beautifully crafted artistic pieces.

Show & Tell: Many of us have stories about our Mershon ancestors, personal mementos and old photographs that would be of interest to our extended family. There will be an opportunity at our meeting to share family stories and mementos.

Saturday Evening: We will gather for a group dinner at a local restaurant.

Suggestions Welcome: We welcome your suggestions for our 2015 meeting agenda. Please contact Clare Mershon by email at ecmershon@aol.com, or by phone at (503) 252-7139.

Suggested Activities for Friday, July 24th



Sculpted Welcoming Committee at the Grounds for Sculpture

For family members arriving on Friday, July 24th, we suggest visiting Grounds for Sculpture, a unique 22 acre sculpture park located on the south side of Trenton at 18 Fairgrounds Road, Hamilton, NJ 08619. There are over 270 sculptures on the grounds, many sculptures are lifelike human figures. There are also interactive sculpted exhibits of famous paintings that will delight all ages. Clare and Sharon Mershon visited in 2014 and were “blown away” by the quality of the exhibits. Here is a link to the Grounds for Sculpture website – www.groundsforsculpture.org

Admission fees are: \$15. for Adults, \$12. for Seniors (65+), \$10 for Students (6-17 or with college ID), Children 5 & under are free.

To carpool to Grounds for Sculpture, meet at 1 PM in the Homewood Suites Lobby. As an option, you can meet us at 1:30 PM at the Grounds for Sculpture ticket booth. Please indicate on the registration form if you can join us on Friday afternoon to visit Grounds for Sculpture. If 15 or more people register, we can reserve a special group tour.

On Friday evening, all family members are welcome to meet at 5:30 PM in the Homewood Suites lobby for dinner together, tentatively at the nearby Ruby Tuesday restaurant.

Other Attractions near Lawrenceville

When you come to Lawrenceville, NJ, for our 2015 Mershon Annual Meeting and Reunion, you may enjoy visiting other nearby attractions –

Morven Museum and Gardens – 55 Stockton Street, Princeton, NJ 08540. Historic home of Richard Stockton, Declaration of Independence signer. Former New Jersey Governor’s residence. Currently has a special exhibit of 19th Century New Jersey chairmaking. For more information, visit the Morven website – <http://morven.org/>
Fee: \$6. for Adults, \$5. for Seniors (60+) and Students. Children 6 & under are free.

(continued next page)

Princeton Battlefield State Park – 500 Mercer Road, Princeton, NJ 08540. The historic Clarke house and historic markers of the Battle of Princeton in a 681 acre park on the battlefield. Visit the park website - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/princeton.html>

Historic Princeton Walking Tour – Sunday, July 26th, 2 PM to 4 PM. Meet at the Historical Society of Princeton/Bainbridge House, 158 Nassau Street, Princeton, NJ 08542 at 2 PM. Enjoy a 1.9 mile, two hour guided walk around downtown Princeton and the Princeton University campus. Wear walking shoes, bring a sun hat and a water bottle. Fee: \$7. for Adults, \$4. for Children (6-12), Children 5 & under are free.

Old Barracks Museum – 101 Barrack Street, Trenton, NJ 08608. The Old Barracks was built during the French & Indian War and housed Hessian soldiers before the 1776 Battle of Trenton. Open Mon. – Sat., 10 AM to 5 PM. Tours are given on the hour, with the last tour starting at 4 PM. Visit the website - <http://www.barracks.org/> Admission is \$8. for Adults, \$6. for Seniors & Students.



Washington Crossing State Park

Washington Crossing State Park Visitor Center Museum – 355 Washington Crossing – Pennington Road, Titusville, NJ 08560. This 3,575 acre park adjoins the Delaware River, close to the former Andrew Mershon Tavern. The Visitor Center Museum is open from 9AM to 4PM. There is a \$7. per vehicle entrance fee on weekends. Visit the park website - <http://www.state.nj.us/dep/parksandforests/parks/washcros.html>

Historic New Hope, Pennsylvania – A charming little village along the Delaware River that conjures up visions of a bygone era. Located in Bucks County, PA, across the river from Lambertville, NJ, New Hope is a shoppers paradise with over 100 shops offering local crafts and items from around the world.

Six Flags Great Adventure & Safari – 599 Monmouth Road, Jackson, NJ 08527. A giant amusement park with many thrill ride for adults and children. Drive-through wildlife safari. Visit their website - <https://www.sixflags.com/greatadventure>

Report on the 2015 Mershon Southern Chapter Meeting

by Barbara Trott of Clinton, Mississippi



Front Row, L to R: Sharon Mershon, Glenn Roberts, Barbara Trott, Karen Goheen, Clare Mershon, Dannie Harden.

Back Row, L to R: Wally Riviere, Connie Hensley, "Elvis," Margie Ogden, Carolyn Mallory, Billy & Kathleen Durrance, Emily Harden, Nancy Riviere, Rufus Ogden. Not pictured: Doris Harris (photographer), Ann Roberts, Denny and Martha Ford.

The Southern Chapter of the Mershon Association met in Nashville, Tennessee, on Friday & Saturday, June 5th & 6th. Friday night we attended the NASHVILLE NIGHTLIFE dinner theater and show. The food was good and the show even better. Saturday morning the meeting was called to order by President Barbara Trott, with 21 family members present.

Hostess Connie Hensley presented the chapter with letters of welcome from the Mayor of Nashville, the Benton County Mayor and from the Governor of Tennessee, Bill Haslam.

All members present introduced themselves and gave information on their Mershon ancestry. Reports were given by board members on their appropriate offices. Clare Mershon, President of the National Association gave us information on the upcoming meeting in Lawrenceville and about the recording of the Mershon records at the Salt Lake City Library.

Connie Hensley and Doris Harris reported on the sale of the Mershon Family Cookbooks and reported they had sold several more at our meeting. As a special treat, Doris had prepared three of the cookbook recipes for everyone to sample.

Barbara Trott gave a program on the early ancestors of the Mershon family, and on William Henry Mershon, a Drummer Boy at Shiloh, a Civil War Battle. After the presentation, she gave each member a crossword puzzle, "Our Ancestors." A fun time was had by all trying to solve all the questions.

After a lunch break, Connie Hensley presented a special Tennessee guest, "Elvis Presley," who sang and entertained the members. We thank Connie Hensley and Doris Harris for a great job making the arrangements for our meeting. What a fun time we all had!

The members decided that the next Southern Chapter reunion would be in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, on May 20th & 21st, 2016. Hostess will be Ann Roberts. The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM.

Mershon Family News



L to R: Bruce & Tracey Mershon, Katelin Williams (fiancé of Chris), Chris Mershon, Meredith & Thomas Mershon (Chris's brother and sister-in-law), May 22, 2015.

Christopher Mershon graduated from the United States Naval Academy (USNA) and was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps on May 22, 2015. Chris received a Bachelor of Science in Quantitative Economics. Initially, he will remain at the USNA through the remainder of 2015 to serve as an assistant defensive coach for the Navy Sprint Football Team. Chris will then report to Quantico, VA, for officer training in the Marine ground forces.

For Commissioning Week, 23 family members celebrated with Chris in Annapolis and experienced a truly memorable week of activities, USNA events and graduation parties.

Chris is a Peter³ Mershon descendant and a son of T. Bruce¹¹ and Tracey Mershon of Lee's Summit, Missouri.

Daniel¹¹ Mershon of Issaquah, WA (near Seattle), has recently published a novel, *Erebus Rising*. It's a political thriller, available as a paperback or e-book on Amazon.com: [http://www.amazon.com/Erebus-Rising-Daniel Mershon/dp/0986097403/ref=tmm_pap_swatc_h_0?_encoding=UTF8&sr=&qid=](http://www.amazon.com/Erebus-Rising-Daniel-Mershon/dp/0986097403/ref=tmm_pap_swatc_h_0?_encoding=UTF8&sr=&qid=)

Daniel graduated from Washington State University in 2010 with a degree in mathematics. He is married to Kelly and has been teaching middle school math since 2011. Daniel is leaving the teaching profession to pursue a graduate degree in economics at the University of Notre Dame, starting fall 2015. He is the son of Perry¹⁰ Mershon of Castle Rock, WA, and Robin Aman of Carson, WA. Daniel is an Andrew³ Mershon descendant.



If you have news to share with our Mershon family, please contact News Bulletin editor Harrison Hunt by email at Mershonnews@mhccable.com, by phone at (516) 965-1590, or by mail at 113 North Street, Catskill, NY 12414.

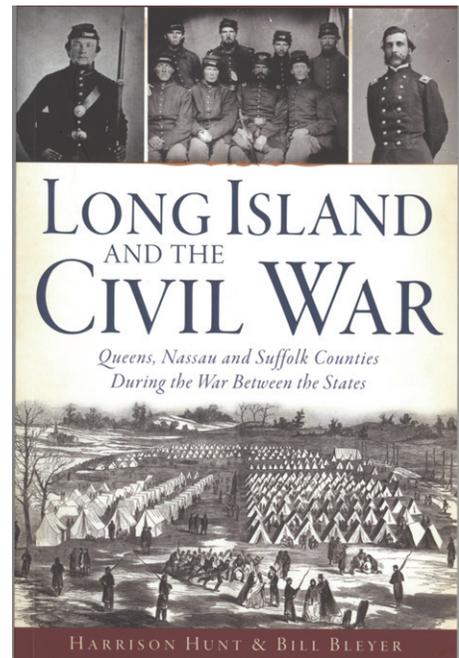


David and Joanna Beun of Mt. Laurel, NJ, announce the birth of their daughter, **Gwyneth Marie Beun**, on January 26, 2015. Gwyneth joins older brother Nathaniel and older half-sister Marissa. David is our Mershon Association Vice-President and is a Thomas³ Mershon descendant. *Congratulations David and Joanna!*

Mershon News Bulletin Editor **Harrison Hunt** of Catskill, NY, had his latest book released in April. *Long Island and the Civil War*, co-authored by Bill Bleyer and published by The History Press, tells the story of Long Island, New York's involvement in the War Between the States. It is the result of 20 years of research by Harrison, who was formerly a history museum curator on Long Island.

Autographed copies of the history -- which he made sure included a mention of the Rev. Stephen Mershon of East Hampton -- can be ordered from Harrison; email him at 18Goldini95@gmail.com for details.

Harrison is a descendant of Andrew³Mershon.



Mershon Family Cookbook Update

Our Mershon Family Cookbook has been a great success! Doris Harris reports 165 Mershon cookbooks sold as of June 2nd, with 35 copies remaining for sale.

We thank our cookbook co-editors Connie Hensley of Nashville, TN, and Doris Harris of Camden, TN (daughter & mother), for their careful work to compile this wonderful volume. Over 150 recipes were submitted by family members. The 6" x 9" book is coil-bound with a color cover and over 180 pages chock-full of delectable family recipes, family pictures and interesting anecdotes. There is an index for easy reference. The cookbook price is \$20 per copy plus \$5 for shipping.

If you would like to have one of our remaining Mershon cookbooks, contact Doris Harris by email at drharr@att.net or by phone at (731) 584-9967. A mail order form was printed on page 11 of our December 2014 *Mershon News Bulletin* and is also available on www.mershonassoc.com .

The Former Andrew Mershon Tavern Sold

The following is quoted from an email sent by Elmer Smith on June 10, 2015. Elmer and Ann Smith have shown wonderful hospitality to our Mershon family over the 39 years they have owned and restored the former Andrew Mershon Tavern at 1258 Bear Tavern Road, Titusville, NJ 08560. We are grateful for their stewardship of this historic former Mershon home.

It is with mixed emotions mixed with sorrow that I am advising you that I have signed a contract to sell the entire farm. It is being sold to a Chinese woman who owns a factory in Shanghai, manufacturing scented soaps, lotions, etc. She is going to raise herbs and flowers which she uses in the manufacture of her products.... She said she will not change any historical aspects of the property. I believe the people who will run the farm will live in it, not her nor her daughter who is a model in NY and also a college student.

Ann and I have spent 39 wonderful years there and have enjoyed every minute of the property and the visits and friendship of the Mershons. I have told the new owner about the relationship I had with the Mershons and hope she continues it. I will be only as far away from you as your computer. Keep in touch, Elmer



Left: The historic Andrew Mershon Tavern.

Right: Mershon family members listen attentively as Elmer Smith (right) leads a 2013 tour of the tavern.



Former Weedie Stokes House has New Owners

by Clare Mershon of Portland, OR

Clay Creasey and his wife Marcella Agh, formerly of Morristown, NJ, completed their purchase of the former Marie Louise “Weedie” Stokes house in Lawrence Township, NJ, on April 2, 2015. The sale included the house, outbuildings and 21 surrounding acres. Clay and Marcella intend to restore Weedie’s former home. Before their purchase closed, Clay emailed: “My wife told me today that she is ‘over the moon’ with happiness over the thought of being able to restore that historic house.” Clay and Marcella are not the proposed buyers who intended to move Weedie’s former house to a new location, then build a new larger home on the property (see Dec. 2014 *Mershon News Bulletin*, page 6).

The oldest 1740 part of the house was the former home of Houghton Mershon and is on land originally owned by Henry Mershon II. The Mershon Association has sent Clay and Marcella complementary copies of our *Houghton Mershon and His Descendants* book and our *Mershon Family History in New Jersey* DVD in which Weedie gave a 2006 tour of her house. We look forward to meeting Clay and Marcella in person!

IN MEMORIAM

Editor's Note: There are 58,272 names engraved on the black granite walls of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C., among them those of Steven Victor Mershon and Daniel Lee Mershon. In this issue, we commemorate Steven; Daniel Mershon will be memorialized in our next issue.



*Steve Mershon on Leave in Hawaii
Oct. 3, 1968*

Steven Victor¹¹ “Steve” Mershon and his identical twin, **Frank Vernon¹¹ “Vern” Mershon**, were born on August 8, 1947 in Blue Island, IL to **Francis M.¹⁰ “Frank”** and **Joyce L. Westenberg Mershon**. After their parents divorced, the twins lived with their mother Joyce until her death of breast cancer in 1963 when the twins were 16. They then moved to live with their biological father, Frank, in Harvey, IL. After their move, Steve and Vern entered a new school, Thornton Township High School, as juniors. Steve soon met Janice Engle, a sophomore. They became high school sweethearts and were married in Dec. 1967, after Janice graduated from high school.

Steve entered the Army on Aug. 21, 1967. He left for Vietnam on Feb. 22, 1968 where he was assigned as a Light Weapons Infantryman with Co. D of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Cavalry Division (Airmobile). From Sept. 27 to Oct. 3, 1968, Janice visited her husband in Hawaii while he was on a “rest and recreation” leave from Vietnam. Two months later, Steve was killed in action in Vietnam.

Quoting from a Dec. 27, 1968 letter received by Janice from Steve’s Company Commander: “I extend my most profound sympathy to you on the recent loss of your husband, Specialist Four Steven V. Mershon, who died in the service of his country on December 3, 1968. On the afternoon of December 3rd, near Quan Loi, Republic of Vietnam, Steven was leading his fire team during an attack on an enemy force. While maneuvering his soldiers against the enemy he exposed himself gallantly and was mortally wounded by enemy small arms fire...Steven’s enthusiasm and devotion to duty marked him as an outstanding squad leader and, as such, he commanded the respect of his superiors as well as that of his subordinates. He displayed the finest example of soldierly bearing, discipline and conduct. I am proud to have served with him.”

Steve is interred in Washington Memory Gardens, Homewood, Cook County, IL. He was an Andrew Mershon descendant.

Steve’s twin brother, Vern, who also served in Vietnam, died of pneumonia on April 30, 1991 at age 43. Frank Mershon, Steve and Vern’s father, passed away at age 68 on Aug. 8, 1991, on what would have been Steve and Vern’s birthday.

Janice Engle Mershon Palkovich, Steve’s widow, who supplied this information, writes:

“I will always have Steve in my heart, even though I have remarried and been married for 42 years now to a wonderful man, I have been blessed with two wonderful daughters and a grandson that is adorable. I still was blessed to know and marry Steve, I was so in love with him and it broke my heart when he was killed in action. It took me 4 long years to stop mourning for him.”

Progress Report on Digitizing our Mershon Archives

by Noel Barton of Farmington, Utah

Nearly all our Mershon records deemed of genealogical and historical value have been scanned and put online at FamilySearch.org. There are some that have been put on, but some glitches in the system do not allow them to come up, but these are being corrected. I am still evaluating the newsletters, bulletins, etc., to make sure there is a complete run of them online. Those after 2006 to the present do not show up, but have been put up, so that is being checked. I will then be able to clean up the remainder of the files and ship them back to the Mercer County Library this summer. There are still some family Bibles and photographs to add to the DVDs, but that will take awhile to get them all scanned, labeled and indexed. They will then be sent later to Mercer County. Most other records can be found in original county, state, church and other records online on FamilySearch, Ancestry, and other internet sites. I have tried to put up all that would not show up in them. Then there are the records that need to be used to document some of the genealogical records which would be done by the genealogist when another is acquired. I will need to ship those as well.

For Your Information

1. **Contributions Needed.** We are a non-profit association without dues. We appreciate your donations to help pay the costs of our twice-yearly *Mershon News Bulletin*, preserving our family records, annual meetings and for program presenters. Please make checks to the "Mershon Association" and mail to our Treasurer: Joan Swearer, 60 Maple Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065. Thank you!
2. **Mershon Genealogy.** Our Mershon genealogy database has over 35,000 names of Mershon descendants and spouses, from 1685 to present. We are in the process of recruiting a new Mershon Genealogist; if interested, contact Clare Mershon at ecmershon@aol.com or by phone at (503) 252-7139.
3. **Please send your mail and email address changes to Gayle Murphy, 464 Firetown Road, Simsbury, CT 06070 or email to Gayle at gammurphy@comcast.net.** There are currently 1,022 mail and email addresses on our mailing list. We need your help to avoid losing contact with you when your address changes!
4. **If you can receive our *Mershon News Bulletin* by email, please send your email address to Gayle Murphy at gammurphy@comcast.net.** The advantages are you will receive our bulletin with color photographs and our Association saves the cost of printing and postage. Our December 2014 bulletin cost \$454.78 to print and mail 405 copies at a cost of \$1.12 each.
5. For a summary of **Mershon Family Books and DVDs** available from the Association, please refer to our April 2012 *Mershon News Bulletin* or visit www.mershonassoc.com
6. Visit our **Mershon Association website:** www.mershonassoc.com. There are some recent additions.
7. **Other interesting websites:** www.genforum.genealogy.com/mershon is a Mershon family genealogy forum. www.thelhs.org is the Lawrence (Township) Historical Society of New Jersey. www.nj.gov/state/archives/ is the New Jersey State Archives.

Registration Form
2015 Mershon Association Annual Meeting & Reunion
Saturday, July 25, 2015, Beginning at 10 AM

Lawrence Headquarters Branch of the Mercer County Library
2751 Brunswick Pike (US 1 - Business)
Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

Recommending Lodging: Homewood Suites, 3819 US Route 1 (Brunswick Pike) at Mapleton Road, Princeton, NJ 08540, telephone (609) 720-0550. We have a preferred group rate for three types of rooms, starting at \$99.00 per night plus 15% tax for a Queen Bed Studio Room. Room rates include a buffet breakfast. All rooms include kitchen facilities.

For GPS directions, use the address of 3819 Brunswick Pike, Princeton, NJ 08540.

If you make a telephone reservation, be sure to say you are attending the **Mershon Family Reunion** to receive our preferred group rate. **The hotel requests room reservations be made by July 11th to receive our group rate. They request 72 hours notice for cancellations. Children are welcome!**

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____ **Email** _____

Names of other persons in your party:

Children and their ages: _____

_____ I/ We plan to visit **Grounds for Sculpture** on Friday afternoon, July 24th, at 1 PM (see “Suggested Activities for Friday, July 24th” on page 3).

Lunch Reservations for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 25th, at the Mercer County Library:

(Vegetarian selections available by special request)

_____ **Adults @\$10 each, total =** _____

_____ **Children under 14 @ \$6.00 each, total =** _____

Please return this form with personal checks for lunches written to the “The Mershon Association” by July 21st to:

E. Clare Mershon
3809 NE 136th Place
Portland, OR 97230-2720



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**E. Clare Mershon
3809 NE 136th Place
Portland, OR 97230-2720**

Upcoming Mershon Family Events

July 25, 2015 (Saturday)

Mershon Association Annual Meeting and Reunion begins at 10 AM in Community Meeting Rooms 1 & 2 of the Lawrence Headquarters Branch, Mercer County Library, 2751 Brunswick Pike (US 1-Business), Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. See details beginning on page 1 of this bulletin.

August 16, 2015 (Sunday)

Pacific Northwest Mershon Family Potluck Picnic, 12 noon to 4 PM at the Glen Otto Community Park, Picnic Shelter "A," 1106 E. Historic Columbia River Highway, Troutdale, OR 97060. For more information, contact Clare Mershon at ecmershon@aol.com, or by phone at (503) 252-7139.



Mershon Polo Shirts

are still available for \$16.00 each at our Annual Meeting on July 25, 2015, or by mail for \$19.50 each including postage from David Beun, 226 Meadow Drive, Mount Laurel, NJ 08054. Contact David by email at 1776nj@gmail.com, or by telephone at (609) 417-3323.