



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)

Le Marchand

April 20, 2019

Report on the 2018 Mershon Annual Meeting and Reunion

by Clare & Sharon Mershon, Portland, Oregon



Front Row (seated), L to R: *Laura Mershon Watson, Christine Mershon, Dan Mershon, Beverly Goldstein, Sharon Mershon, Beverly & Richard Smith, Joan Swearer, Jeanne Stotler, Nancy & Wally Riviere.*

Back Row (standing), L to R: *Anastasia Watson, Robert Mershon Watson, Tom Mershon, Lori Mershon, Victor & Judy Mershon, Clare Mershon, Doug Smith, Nathaniel Beun, Joanna Beun holding Gwyneth Beun, David Beun, Thomas O'Neal, William O'Neal, Mary & Bill O'Neal, Diana Ricigliano-Crannage.*

The 2018 annual meeting of the Association of the Descendants of Henry Mershon was called to order on Saturday, July 28th, at 10:15 am in the Community Meeting Room at the Lawrence Headquarters Branch of the Mercer County Library in Lawrenceville, NJ. Following an invocation, we recited the Pledge of Allegiance. Each family group introduced themselves and shared information about their family history.

(Continued on page 2)

Save the Date
Saturday, July 27, 2019
Mershon Association Annual Meeting & Reunion
Lawrenceville, NJ

At 11:00 am, Laura Nawrocik of the Mercer County Library Staff updated us on what is happening with the Mershon archives, now part of the Lawrence Township Archives located at the Mercer County Library. She showed us the lidded redware ceramic jar recently donated to our archives by Virginia Skillman. This jar was probably made by the McCully Pottery in Trenton. It was originally owned by Virginia's ancestor Henry IV (1740 – 1815). You can make an appointment to review the archives by contacting Laura at (609) 538-8112 or by email at geronimo819@yahoo.com.

Following Laura's presentation, we began our business meeting until 12:00 pm, when we set up for our catered box lunch meal.

Living history program on Abigail Adams (following lunch) –

Abigail Adams was portrayed by Kim Hanley of the American Historical Theater in Philadelphia. Abigail was the wife of John Adams, second President of the United States, and the mother of John Quincy Adams, sixth President of the United States.

Abigail served as an unofficial advisor to her husband. Her biggest causes were education and fairer treatment of women. John Adams was frequently away from home while serving in the Continental Congress during the Revolutionary War. Abigail wrote him from their home in Braintree, Massachusetts, to “remember the women” when enacting new laws. Abigail had the responsibility of running their farm while John was away.

John Adams served as Vice-President under George Washington, then was elected as President in 1797. Because of their close relationship, Abigail was sometimes referred to as “Mrs. President.”



“Abigail Adams” with Gwyneth Beun (L) and Nathaniel Beun (R).

Kim Hanley's enthusiastic presentation made Abigail Adams “come alive.”

Business Meeting – Our 2017 meeting minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer Report: Joan Swearer

Checking Account: \$7,919.07 (Dec. 31, 2018 update)

Certificate of Deposit: \$7,454.42 (Dec. 31, 2018 update)

Genealogy Report: Mershon Genealogist Pam Caffrey was unable to attend our 2018 meeting. She can be contacted by email at pcaffrey24@outlook.com or by phone at (201) 739-2308. The Mershon Association Genealogy Group set up by Pam on Facebook now has 132 members. Our genealogy database has over 35,000 records of Mershon descendants and spouses, from 1685 to present.

Mershon Southern Chapter Report: Wally Riviere of Keystone Heights, FL, reported on the Southern Chapter. He also described his ancestry through William J.I. and Albina Pauline (Mershon) Riviere of Georgia. Wally presented a folder to our Association containing his family information.

Executive Board Report: Our Executive Board met on Friday evening July 27th. Main items considered were-

- Noel Barton has almost finished his paid work organizing and digitizing our Mershon archives. On July 18, Noel shipped five record boxes to the Lawrence Township Archives and one box to Pam Caffrey for incorporation into our genealogical database. One box is still at the LDS Family History Library to be scanned. Our scanned documents are being posted on the Family History Library website at this link - <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/results?count=20&query=%2Bsurname%3Amershon>
- We extended an invitation in our April 2018 News Bulletin for proposals to hold our annual meeting in other locations besides Lawrenceville, perhaps doing this one year out of three. In response, we discussed a proposal by Christine Mershon to hold an annual meeting at the Fall City Farm, 26 miles east of Seattle, WA. This 100 acre farm is in a park like setting with a lodge, close to Snoqualmie Falls. After discussion, we decided to do additional research towards perhaps holding our 2020 meeting at that location. The intent is to make our meeting more available to Mershons' in other parts of our country, to build Mershon friendships and enthusiasm for our family history. We will hold our 2019 meeting in Lawrenceville.
- We reviewed a proposed slate of nominations for our 2019 Mershon Association officers.

Elect Officers: We elected the following Mershon Association officers for 2019 –

President: Clare Mershon

Vice-President: Vacant

Treasurer: Joan Swearer

Recording Secretary: Vacant

Genealogist: Pam Caffrey

Board of Trustees: Dr. Jim Mershon and Noel Barton

News Bulletin Editor: Vacant

Executive Board:

Dr. Jim Mershon

Beverly Mershon

Joan Swearer

Noel Barton

Doris Harris

Harrison Hunt

Connie Hensley

Elaine Tredinnick

Clare Mershon

David Beun

Daniel Mershon

Pam Caffrey

Planning Committee:

Clare Mershon (chairperson)

Noel Barton

Jeanne Stotler

Elaine Tredinnick

Beverly Goldstein

Following our tradition of passing the hat, we collected \$342.00 in donations for our Mershon Association.

We adjourned our formal meeting at about 3:15 PM to travel to the former Andrew Mershon Tavern near Titusville. We appreciate the hospitality of owners Elmer & Ann Smith in welcoming us once again to tour their historic Mershon home (see photo at right).

We gathered at 6:30 PM for a group dinner at the Princetonian Diner on U.S. Route 1 in Lawrenceville. This event concluded our meeting.

Thank you to Bill O'Neal for supplying the group photograph on page 1.



Front, L to R: Robert Mershon Watson, Laura (Mershon) Watson, Anastasia Watson.
Back, L to R: Ann & Elmer Smith.

Mershon Southern Chapter Announcement

An informal meeting/vacation of the Mershon Association, Southern Chapter, is being planned for August 26-30 in Pigeon Forge, TN. If you are interested to attend please put it on your calendar. Details and hotel accommodations will be sent in July. We will not stay at Country Cascades due to their high cost of about \$400 for a 4 day stay. Another hotel will be selected which will be about \$200 for a 4 day stay. If you are interested in attending please email me. We will plan to attend several shows in Pigeon Forge as well as a family meal together at one of the fine restaurants. Let's celebrate our Mershon heritage with a reunion of descendants of Henri Mershon.

Thank you for your attention to this announcement.

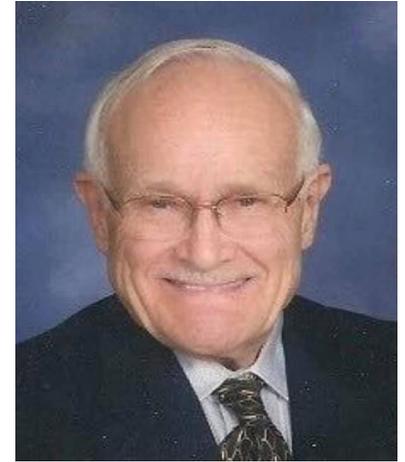
Wally Riviere, Descendent of Lt. Henry Mershon and Enos Mershon

Email: uuallygator@gmail.com Phone: (352) 475-3938 (Florida)

Do you have an interesting story about a Mershon descendent or a family related artifact? If so, please consider writing it up to share it with our extended family! We welcome your contributions to our Mershon News Bulletin. If available, photographs add a lot to a story. Email your contributions to Clare Mershon at ecmershon@aol.com or mail to the return address on this bulletin.

Mershon Family News

Dr. James C. “Jim” Mershon, MD, of Wichita, KS, age 81, passed away unexpectedly on March 19, 2019. Jim died following a serious fall backward while climbing stairs in his home. He was still breathing after his fall, but never regained consciousness. You may recall that Jim had a previous serious fall with multiple broken bones in December 2017 (see our April 2018 News Bulletin).



Jim served as President of our Mershon Association from approximately 2001 to 2007. He was ably assisted by his wife Beverly who served as Corresponding Secretary during the same period. Among Jim’s many contributions to our Association was establishing our mershonassoc.com website. Jim and Beverly continued to serve on our Mershon Executive Board. Jim and his son Philip attended our 2017 Mershon annual meeting. His enthusiasm for our Mershon Association will be greatly missed. Jim was an Andrew³ descendant.

Here is a link to Dr. Jim’s obituary - <https://www.cozinememorial.com/notices/DrJames-Mershon>

Laura Howard (Mershon) Watson of Arlington, VA, age 96, passed away on January 15, 2019. Laura attended our 2018 Mershon Reunion with her son Robert Mershon Watson and granddaughter Anastasia. Born in Georgia, Laura was an Andrew³ descendant, descended through Lieut. Henry⁴ and Enos⁵. See Laura’s photograph on page 4.

Virginia P. Skillman of Skillman, NJ, age 97, passed away on February 10, 2019. In January 2018, Virginia donated to our Association a lidded redware ceramic jar that had belonged to her ancestor Henry Mershon IV (see our April 2018 News Bulletin). Here is a link to Virginia’s obituary - <http://obits.nj.com/obituaries/trenton/obituary.aspx?n=virginia-skillman&pid=191904808&fhid=8044>

Received from **John Kaster** of Debarry, FL : “... on September 8th, 2018, I introduced my grandson **Ryan Matthew Pries**, age 9, to be inducted into the Sons of the American Revolution at the Mayflower complex in Winter Park, Florida. Present were his parents and grandparents in addition to many members of the Sons of the American Revolution Chapter. It was quite a celebration with a gourmet lunch. The introduction was the pledge of allegiance to the American flag and prayer. As a standing member of the Sons of the American Revolution, I introduced my grandson and explained why the both of us qualified to become members, more specifically it was based on our honored ancestor Lieutenant Henry Mershon. I cited documented historical facts about Lieutenant Mershon. In the same regard I also provided information on Andrew Mershon’s Tavern as a side presentation. Coincidentally, our speaker, had prepared the program to discuss the importance of the “Tavern” in colonial society and its vital part in the war. In was quite evident by all in attendance the information on the Mershon family as patriots was well received.”



*John Kaster with grandson
Ryan Matthew Pries*

Mershon Genealogy

Our Mershon Association Genealogist is Pam Caffrey, 232 Momar Drive, Ramsey, NJ 07446; Email: pcaffrey24@outlook.com; Cell Phone: (201) 739-2308. We have over 35,000 individual records in our Mershon genealogy database going back to 1685. Contact Pam if you have updates to share or want to know what is in our genealogy database for your Mershon family line. For submitting updates, please include names, birth dates, marriage dates, death dates and the places these events happened to the best of your knowledge.

For privacy reasons, our Genealogist does not release information on living persons outside your immediate family (grandparents, parents, siblings, children, spouses) without their written consent, unless the subject persons would be over 110 years old. This is the guideline followed by the ancestry.com genealogy website.

Opportunities to Help our Mershon Association

Our Mershon Association **Vice-President, Recording Secretary and News Bulletin Editor** officer positions are currently vacant. These positions are important to the well being of our Association. We need a diversified team of officers to share the load.

- Our **Vice-President** performs the duties of the President when the President is absent.
- Our **Recording Secretary** takes minutes for our Executive Board and our Annual Meetings.
- Our **News Bulletin Editor** compiles this bulletin, normally published twice a year. Familiarity with publishing software is desirable, but not essential, in this position.

Please assist our Association by applying to fill one of these positions. For more information, contact Clare Mershon by email at ecmershon@aol.com or by phone in Oregon at (503) 679-7990.

Available Book:

The Life and Times of the Extended Family of Alan Mershon Craft

We were recently contacted by Michael LaRue, the online book seller for a Resale Store run by Memorial Assistance Ministries. Here is his message –

*“We recently had a book given to us as part of a set of donations, *The Life and Times of the Extended Family of Alan Mershon Craft (1622-2009)*. As opposed to offering it online for sale, I thought it best to contact the Mershon family association to see if any of your members would like to have it. If any of them are, I would be happy to accept for it any reasonable offer or donation in support of our ministry, plus the cost of shipping.”*

The Mershon Association archives already has a copy of this beautiful 622 page book, published in 2009. The Mershon family line for Alan Mershon Craft is Henri, Henry II, Andrew³, Cornelius⁴, Abraham⁵, Cornelius⁶, James⁷, Kathryn Rosa⁸, Alan Mershon Craft.

If you are interested in buying this book, you can email Michael LaRue at mlarue@msministries.org

Thank You! Thank You!

Our Mershon Association is a non-profit corporation without dues. Your generous donations pay the costs of printing and mailing our Mershon News Bulletin, hosting our annual meetings, honorariums for programs by outside presenters, preserving our family records, answering inquiries and maintaining our mershonassoc.com website.

Listed below with our appreciation are our identified contributors during 2018. However, unidentified cash contributions made while “passing the hat” our 2018 annual meeting are not included in this list. If other contributions were not recorded, we apologize and ask you to notify Treasurer Joan Swearer at 60 Maple Ave., Rahway, NJ 07065, or by email at jtswearer@gmail.com.

Vernon C. Thomson, Jr., Vermont, IL
Cecille Sanders Graffi, East Helena, MT
Andrew & Arlene Hutnik, Jonesport, ME
Denny & Martha Ford, Greenfield, IL
Roger & Zoann Merryfield, Shawnee, KS

John Kaster, Debary, FL
Diana Buroff, Lavina, MT
Richard & Beverly M. Smith, Bedford, TX
B. Marvin & Sally Thomas, Venice, FL
Bryan Mershon, Culver City, CA

Your donations are our principal source of income. Thank you!

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 outside 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. **Please send your mail and email address changes to Gayle Murphy, 464 Firetown Road, Simsbury, CT 06070, or email Gayle at gammurphy@comcast.net.** There are currently 993 mail and email addresses on our mailing list. We need your help to avoid losing contact with you when your address changes!

3. **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 April 2018 bulletin cost \$483.58 to print and mail 323 copies, a cost of \$1.50 each.

4. **Mershon Family Cookbook, 2014, 180 pages – Only eight copies remain for sale of the 200 printed.** This 6” x 9” book is coil-bound with over 150 delectable family recipes, family pictures and interesting anecdotes. There is an index for easy reference. The price is \$25.00 each, including postage, from Joan Swearer, 60 Maple Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065.

5. **Visit our Mershon Association website: www.mershonassoc.com**

6. For a complete list of **Mershon genealogy books and DVD’s** available from the Association, please refer to our June 2016 Mershon News Bulletin or visit www.mershonassoc.com.



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

Return Service Requested

2019 Mershon Family Events Calendar

July 27, 2019 (Saturday) - Mershon Association Annual Meeting and Reunion begins at 10 AM in the Community Meeting Room at the Lawrence Headquarters Branch of the Mercer County Library, 2751 Brunswick Pike (US 1-Business), Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. Program details and lodging information will be published in June.

August 18, 2019 (Sunday) - Pacific Northwest Mershon Family Potluck Picnic, 12 noon to 4 PM at the Glenn Otto Community Park, 1106 E. Historic Columbia River Highway, Troutdale, OR 97060. For more information, contact Clare Mershon at ecmershon@aol.com or by phone at (503) 679-7990.

August 26-30, 2019 (Monday-Friday) - Mershon Southern Chapter Informal Meeting & Vacation in Pigeon Forge, TN. See the announcement on page 4.



Participants at the 2018 Pacific Northwest Mershon Family Potluck Picnic at Glenn Otto Community Park, Troutdale, OR (near Portland).