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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 21, 2022

2022 Mershon Association Annual Meeting is on Saturday, July 23rd

After two years of virtual meetings due to Covid-19, we will meet in-person for our 2022 Mershon Association Annual Meeting & Reunion, beginning at 10 AM on Saturday morning, July 23rd. 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.

To protect everyone from infection by the Covid-19 pandemic, we are asking everyone attending to present their Covid-19 vaccine card to attend, or if not vaccinated, to wear a mask.

Lodging: We have a group rate for lodging at the Hampton Inn Princeton, 4385 US Highway 1, Princeton, NJ 08540. See the Registration Form insert with this bulletin for more information.

Hybrid Meeting: To encourage participation in our 2022 Mershon Association Meeting, members can meet in-person or virtually on Zoom. Mershon Association volunteer Melissa Mershon will be on site to livestream the morning session of our meeting from 10:30 AM to 12:00 Noon (Eastern Time) for those who cannot travel to NJ. Melissa is not a professional at video conferencing. If this works well for our members, our Association will look into hiring a professional in 2023 with better cameras and microphones.

As we get close to our July 23rd meeting date, we will send a link to our Mershon email address list to access our meeting on Zoom at 10:30 AM Eastern Time (7:30 AM Pacific Time). For family members who don't receive this News Bulletin by email, but do have email access, please send your email address to Gayle Murphy at gammurphy@gmail.com so you can receive our meeting online."

Vice-President Dave Beun will bring for display the original 1738 Henry Mershon II grave marker he recovered in two pieces when the current grave marker boulder was reset in 2019.

Mershon Genealogist Pam Caffrey will present a program on our Mershon genealogy database. She can show you what is in our genealogy database for your family line. Pam will be happy to receive any updates you have.

Executive Board Member Elaine Tredinnick will present a program on heritage organizations for Mershon descendants.

Show & Tell: Many of us have stories about our Mershon ancestors, family 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 show mementos.

Lunch: A variety of catered box lunches will be available for our Saturday lunch at the library.



*Original 1738 Henry Mershon II
grave marker as recovered in 2019.
Dave Beun Photograph*

Business Meeting: Following lunch we will elect our Mershon Association Officers for 2023.

Proposed Mershon Association Constitution Amendments: We will discuss and vote on several proposed changes to our Constitution. These proposed changes are to satisfy IRS requirements for approval of our Association for 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-free status. See the proposed changes on the insert with this bulletin.

Saturday Afternoon: We will visit a group of historic Mershon sites including the Henry Mershon grave site, Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville and the Andrew Mershon Tavern.

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



*Henry Mershon II Grave Site
Lawrenceville Upper Cemetery*



*Former Andrew Mershon Colonial Tavern
1258 Bear Tavern Road, Titusville, NJ 08560*

Matthew Forester wins Mershon Podcast Contest for Youth

We are pleased to announce that Matthew James Forester, age 13, of Wayne, PA, was awarded first prize of \$500 in our 2021 Mershon Podcast Contest for Youth. Matthew's entry is worthy. It is the type of story we were hoping to learn about members of our family.

Matthew and his father, Matthew L. Forester, worked together on the podcast. The subject is their cousin, Preston Stratton Foster (1900-1970), an Andrew Mershon descendant and a notable stage and screen star from the 1930s to the 1960s. Preston was honored in 1958 by a brass star embedded in the sidewalk on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, Hollywood Blvd. at Vine St. in Los Angeles.

You can listen to Matthew Forester's podcast on our Mershon Association website at this link - <http://mershonfamilyassoc.org/podcasts/>

Our Mershon Executive Board will consider holding another contest for youth in the future to find out and share interesting stories about our family members. We hope Matthew's success will inspire others to contribute their family stories.



Matthew James Forester

Report on the 2021 Mershon Annual Meeting & Reunion

by Clare & Sharon Mershon, Portland, Oregon

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, our 2021 Mershon Annual Meeting and Reunion was a video conference. We met online on Saturday, July 31st at 4:00 PM EDT (1:00 PM PDT). Melissa Mershon of Louisville, Kentucky, hosted our meeting on Zoom.

Our meeting began with a polling question to learn something about our meeting participants:

Q - Have you attended a Mershon Association meeting before? **A** - 34% of the participants had not attended a meeting in the past.

Participants answered the above question online by checking appropriate boxes.

President Clare Mershon of Portland, OR, gave welcoming remarks.

Treasurer Joan Swearer of Rahway, NJ, reported that the Association's checking account has a balance of \$3,376.66. We also have a Certificate of Deposit for \$10,381.99. We do not charge dues for our Association and rely mostly on donations from Mershon descendants.

Genealogist Pam Caffrey of Ramsey, NJ, reported our genealogy database has about 36,000 records of Mershon descendants and spouses going back to 1685. Family genealogy updates are welcome. Pam's email is pcaffrey24@outlook.com. Pam established and maintains the Mershon Association Genealogy Group on Facebook. See the Mershon Genealogy article on page 6.

Webmaster Bill O'Neal of Ewing, NJ, reported on our Mershon Assn. website – mershonfamilyassoc.org Bill gave a visual tour showing the website pages. Bill has done a wonderful job on our website!

Vice-President Dave Beun described items available from the Mershon Family Store – Dave handles distribution of our Mershon polo shirts. There is a selection of sizes.

Joan Swearer handles distribution of the Mershon genealogy books by Grace Lucile Olmstead Mershon. Our Mershon coat of arms, 9.5" x 12.5", printed in color on heavyweight glossy paper, is also available from Joan.

The *Andrew Mershon Tavern Album*, *Video Tour of the Andrew Mershon Tavern* DVD and the *Mershon Family History in New Jersey* DVD can be ordered from Clare Mershon.

Information on how to order these items is on our website at this link - <http://mershonfamilyassoc.org/mershon-store/>

Podcast Contest for Young Mershon Descendants - Dave Beun and Joan Swearer described our newly announced podcast contest with cash prizes. The objective is to motivate young Mershon descendants to learn family history stories and share them in a podcast (a downloadable audio file). Rules are in our May 2021 Mershon News Bulletin. Submissions are due by Sept. 30, 2021 (later extended to Dec. 31, 2021). See the result on page 2.

Early History of Henri Marchand, Henry Mershon II and the Mershon Association – Clare Mershon described the family tradition that the Marchand family were Huguenots (French protestants) who lived in the vicinity of Caen, Normandy, France. There was serious conflict in the late 1600s between the Catholic church, supported by King Louis XIV, and the Huguenots. Henri and his son Henry II came to New York in 1685 to see if America would be a good place to resettle their family. Henri left 13 year old Henry II with friends in New York and returned to France to bring the rest of his family to America. Henri was never heard from again. Speculation is he was lost at sea or perhaps was a victim of the religious conflict when he returned to France.

Henry II eventually settled in Newtown, NY, on the western end of Long Island. This area is now known as Elmhurst, Queens County, New York City. Henry II became a weaver. He may have been an apprentice to another Newtown weaver named Daniel Marchand (1650-1693). Daniel may have been related to Henry II, but we have no documentation of that and the Marchand name was common.

“Henry Marshan” is listed in a 1698 census of Newtown as the head of a household of three, presumably including his wife and oldest son Henry III.

About 1700, Henry II moved his family from Newtown to newly opened West Jersey, near the settlement of Maidenhead, now known as Lawrenceville, NJ. Henry II was not a land owner in Newtown, but he was able to purchase 210 acres of land just inside the Province Line that separated West Jersey from the previously settled East Jersey.

Henry II prospered in his new home. He is documented as a land owner in 1703. He was appointed Constable of Maidenhead in 1708. Henry II purchased an additional 323 acres in 1708, apparently to provide his children with land when they reached maturity. He was one of 36 recipients of a 1710 deed to establish a church meeting house in Maidenhead. That church is now the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville.

Henry II was appointed Overseer of the Poor in 1719 and was appointed Overseer of the Highway in 1720. Henry II became a naturalized British citizen in 1733, as New Jersey was then a British colony. Being in declining health by July 1738, Henry II prepared his last Will and Testament. A transcribed copy is available for viewing on our Mershon website. Henry II passed away at about age 66 on September 20, 1738.

The Mershon Association was formed in 1923 by a group of New Jersey Mershon descendants. Their objective was to document our family history and to replace the original Henry II grave marker in the Upper Lawrenceville Cemetery with a more permanent marker. The new grave marker boulder with a bronze plaque duplicating the size, shape and lettering of the original marker was dedicated on Sept. 19, 1925.

We are fortunate that our predecessors in the Mershon Association documented our early history and wrote it down. The genealogy books available through our Association cover our family history through the first six generations in America.

We had four more polling questions for meeting participants to answer online –

Q. - Tell us where you live? **A.** - All over the U.S.

Q. – Do you think you will come a Mershon meeting in the future? In-person? Online by Zoom? Hybrid in-person and online meeting? **A.** – Most responders asked for a hybrid meeting.

Q. – What subjects do people want to learn about our family history? Mershons’ in the Civil War? Mershon connection to Princeton? Mershon Auditorium at Ohio State? Famous Mershons’? Andrew Mershon Tavern? **A.** – All of the above.

Q. – What Mershon family line do you come from? **A.** – 59% of responders were descended from Andrew³.



This image is taken from a 1777 map published in the London Gazette to show the progress of the British Army in New York. The added arrow on the right shows the location of Newtown, NY, on the western end of Long Island. Manhattan Island is in the center of this image. New York City is at the southern (lower) tip of Manhattan Island.

Library of Congress, Geography and Map Collection

Closing - Clare Mershon reported on recent Association activities. We ordinarily elect new officers and Executive Board members each year at our annual meeting. However, it seemed impractical to do that in our video conference this year. We appreciate that all our Association officers have agreed to extend their terms of office into 2022. New officers will be elected at our next in-person meeting, hopefully in 2022.

Clare thanked the presenters in our meeting, particularly Melissa Mershon who hosted our video conference. She is great!

There were 109 family units participating in our video conference. This is many more than have attended our recent annual meetings in New Jersey. We hope to see you at a Mershon Association meeting in the future!

Our meeting was about one hour in length. You can listen to a video recording of our 2021 meeting at the following link - <http://mershonfamilyassoc.org/upcoming-events/>

Marie Quigley Bible - 1849

Larry Gray of Berea, KY, emailed our Mershon Genealogist, Pam Caffrey, in December 2021 saying he had come into possession of something that may be of interest to descendants of William and Marie (Quigley) Mershon. He offered to return it for free!

The item offered by Larry is a small bible (3"x 6") inscribed "Marie Quigley" in gold print on the cover with a inscription inside by "Will" dated "Dec 1st /49." Larry mailed Marie's bible to Pam so we could publicize it to our family members.

Our Mershon genealogy database records that William West Mershon (1825-1885) married Marie Quigley (1827-1907) on April 1, 1853. They had six children. William and Marie are buried in the Riverview Cemetery, Trenton, NJ. How Marie's bible traveled to Kentucky is unknown. Unfortunately, our Mershon genealogy database does not list any living descendants.

If you are a William & Marie (Quigley) Mershon descendant and interested in having this bible, please contact Pam Caffrey by email at pcaffrey24@outlook.com or by phone at (201) 739-2308.



Albina Pauline (Mershon) Riviere Portrait is Available

The late Alice "Lallie" (Dozier) Jones Benkoski (1926-2021) of Albany, GA, was an avid genealogist. She was active in seven family associations, including our own. Lallie traced her Mershon ancestry through Andrew³, Lieut. Henry⁴ and Enos⁵ who moved from New Jersey to Georgia in the late 1700s.

Lallie's son, Stan Jones, has donated her Mershon research papers, filling one record box, to our Association. After review by our Mershon Genealogist, Pam Caffrey, these papers will join the Mershon collection at the Lawrence Township Archives at the Lawrence Headquarters Branch of the Mercer County Library in New Jersey.

Lallie's great-grandmother was Albina Pauline Mershon⁷ (1844-1897) who married William J.I. Riviere in 1859. They had 15 children. Lallie's son Stan is offering a 20" x 23" framed portrait of Albina (Mershon) Riviere to any descendant of Albina's on the condition they will pay the shipping. Stan's address is 168 Spring Creek Road, Warwick, GA 31796. Telephone: (229) 535-4261.



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 about 36,000 individual records in our Mershon genealogy database dating 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.

The Mershon Association Genealogy Group set up by Pam on Facebook now has 321 members. Check it out and please consider joining. In order to keep this group focused on Mershon Genealogy, there are a few questions that you'll be asked to answer before being added to the group.

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.

Seeking Lost Mershon Descendants from Loudoun County, Virginia, and Carroll Parish (County), Louisiana

To break through a genealogy "brick wall," we are seeking to find descendants of Joseph⁴ Mershon (1733/34 - about 1821) and his son Thomas⁵ B. Mershon (1771/75– after 1840) of Loudoun County, Virginia. Joseph⁴ was a son of Henry Mershon III. He moved from New Jersey to Virginia circa 1777 (see *Henry Mershon III and His Descendants*, 1953, Chapter III). Thomas⁵ married Elizabeth Milstate on Sept. 28, 1797 in Loudoun County. Thomas⁵ was one of three signers of an 1821 inventory of Joseph's estate.

We are also seeking descendants of four Mershon brothers, possibly sons of Thomas⁵, who moved from Virginia to Carroll Parish, Louisiana, in the early 1840s. The Mershon brothers were James (1810-1866), John (b. 1812), Thomas (1817-1859) and Wyatt (1818-1887). These four brothers are not listed in our Mershon genealogy database, but are documented in records posted on ancestry.com.

In the 1850 Federal Census for Carroll Parish: James, John and Wyatt are described as "Planters." Thomas is described as an "Overseer." The 1850 Federal Census Slave Schedule records James Mershon as owning eight slaves and John Mershon owning two slaves. Thomas and Wyatt were not listed as slave owners in 1850. Thomas died of pneumonia in Oct. 1859 at age 42.

The 1860 Federal Census Slave Schedule reports Wyatt Mershon owned six slaves in Carroll Parish. Brother James Mershon owned five slaves in Chicot, Arkansas. John Mershon is not listed as a slave owner in 1860.

If you have additional information about the persons mentioned above, please contact Clare Mershon, telephone (503) 679-7990, email: ecmershon@aol.com.

We are always looking for articles about Mershon family history for our News Bulletin. Do you have an interesting story about a Mershon descendant or a family related artifact? If so, please write it up to share with our extended family. If available, photographs add a lot to a story. Email your story to Clare Mershon at ecmershon@aol.com, or mail to the return address on this bulletin.

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 and maintaining our Mershon Association website.

Listed below with our appreciation are our contributors during 2021. If any 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.

Peter & Robin McKenna, Durand, MI

Andrew & Arlene Hutnik, Jonesport, ME

Gerald & Anne Blatherwick, Vero Beach, FL

Melissa Mershon, Louisville, KY

David & Joanna Beun, Mt. Laurel, NJ

Andrew Bernard, Des Moines, IA

Ben Mershon Phillips, Basking Ridge, NJ

Ralph & Jinny Widowski, Brunswick, OH

John Kaster. Debary, FL

David Mershon, Harve De Grace, MD

Brian & Nancy Black, Wolfsboro, NH

Dan & Lorie Mershon, Doylestown, PA

Richard Jacques/Susan Filar, Palatine, IL

Karen J. Zickert, Pittsville, WI

Jack & Tanya Pitzer, Alexandria, VA

Vernon C. Thomson, Jr., Vermont, IL

Jean W. Troop, Columbus, OH

Joan Swearer, Rahway, NJ

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

For Your Information!

1. **Donations Needed:** We are a non-profit association without dues. We appreciate your donations to help pay the costs of printing and mailing our Mershon News Bulletin, preserving our family records, hosting our 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 changes to your mail or email address to Gayle Murphy, 464 Firetown Road, Simsbury, CT 06070, or email Gayle at gammurphy@gmail.com.** There are currently 999 mail and email addresses on our mailing list. We need your help to avoid losing contact with you when your mail or email address changes!

3. **If you can receive our Mershon News Bulletin by email, please send your email address to Gayle Murphy at gammurphy@gmail.com.** The advantages are you will receive our bulletin in color, quicker and our Association saves the cost of printing and postage. Our May 2021 bulletin cost \$392.21 to print and mail 289 copies at a cost of \$1.36 each.

4. For a complete list of **Mershon genealogy books and DVDs** available from our Association, please refer to our May 2020 Mershon News Bulletin, page 10, or visit our Mershon Association website at this link - <http://mershonfamilyassoc.org/mershon-store/>

5. **Visit our Mershon Association website home page at: mershonfamilyassoc.org**



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

Return Service Requested

2022 Mershon Family Events Calendar

July 23, 2022 (Saturday) - Mershon Association Annual Meeting and Reunion begins at 10 AM in the Community Meeting Room of the Lawrence Headquarters Branch of the Mercer County Library, 2751 Brunswick Pike (US 1 - Business), Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. See the meeting announcement on page 1.

August 21, 2022 (Sunday afternoon) - Pacific Northwest Mershon Family & Friends 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.

Registration Form

2022 Mershon Association Annual Meeting & Reunion

Saturday, July 23, 2022, Beginning at 10 AM

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

Recommending Lodging: Hampton Inn Princeton, 4385 US Route 1 (Brunswick Pike), Princeton, NJ 08540, telephone (609) 951-0066. This is a smoke-free building in all guest rooms, meeting rooms and public areas. We have a preferred group rate for rooms with a king size bed and a queen sofa bed at \$149.00 per night plus 14.63% tax. Room rates include a delicious buffet breakfast from 6 AM to 10 AM daily. For GPS directions, use the address of 4385 Brunswick Pike, Princeton, NJ 08540.

The hotel has set up a special Mershon Family Reunion web page for online reservations at this link –

<https://www.hilton.com/en/book/reservation/deeplink/?ctyhocn=PTNHHHX&groupCode=CHHMRE&arrivaldate=2022-07-20&departuredate=2022-07-24&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT>

For a telephone reservation, call (800) 774-1500 and ask for the block code **MRE** to receive our preferred group rate. **The hotel requests room reservations at our group rate be made by July 5th. After July 5th, call Hampton Inn Director of Sales Caterina Coanda at (732) 253-9168 to ask if rooms are still available at our group rate. Individual reservations must be cancelled 48 hours prior to scheduled arrival to avoid being billed for the first night's room and tax. Children are welcome!**

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Names of other persons in your party:

Children and their ages: _____

Lunch Reservations for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 23rd, 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 “Mershon Association” by July 18th to:

E. Clare Mershon

3809 NE 136th Place

Portland, OR 97230-2720