



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

March 2017

Report on the 2016 Mershon Annual Meeting and Reunion

by Clare Mershon of Portland, Oregon



Front Row (seated), L to R: Diana Ricigliano-Crannage, Jeanne Stotler, Dan Mershon, Joan Swearer, Beverly Smith, Cheryl Christopher, Frank May, Sharon Mershon and Lauren O'Neal.

Back Row (standing), L to R: Dave & Toni Mershon, Doug Smith, Richard Smith, Pam Caffrey, Clare Mershon, Gwyneth Beun (child), David & Joanna Beun, Nathaniel Beun (child in front of Joanna) and Bill O'Neal.

Not pictured: Tom & Elaine Tredinnick.

The 2016 annual meeting of the Association of the Descendants of Henry Mershon was called to order on Saturday, August 6th, at 10:20 a.m. in the Community Meeting Room at the Lawrence Headquarters Branch of the Mercer County Library, Lawrenceville, NJ. Following an invocation and pledge of allegiance, each family group introduced themselves. There were 22 persons attending.

SAVE THE DATE!
Saturday, July 22, 2017
Mershon Association Annual Meeting & Reunion
Lawrenceville, NJ

Begin Business Meeting – Our 2015 meeting minutes were approved as printed.

Treasurer Report: Joan Swearer

Checking Account: \$5,324.47 (12/31/2016 update)

Certificate of Deposit: \$7,196.04 (12/31/2016 update)

Genealogy Report: Mershon Genealogist Pam Caffrey was in attendance with her laptop computer to assist persons in updating their Mershon family tree. Pam has established a Mershon Association Genealogy Group on Facebook with 59 members to date. We have over 35,000 records of Mershon descendants and spouses in our Mershon genealogy database.

Southern Chapter Report: The Southern Chapter met on May 20-21, 2016 in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee. See the June 2016 Mershon News Bulletin for a full report.

Executive Board Report: Clare Mershon and Elaine Tredinnick reported on the Executive Board meeting, held on Friday evening, August 5th, at the Hampton Inn, Princeton.

Mershon Archivist Noel Barton, is in the final stages of his work organizing and digitizing our Mershon archives. Through the efforts of Noel, many of our Mershon archive materials are now available online at the FamilySearch.org website. There are 28 Mershon surname related genealogy books and other files indexed in the FamilySearch.org surname catalog, including the Mershon Association genealogy books by Grace Lucile Olmstead Mershon.

The Executive Board voted to post the *Photographs from the Mershon Archives* and the *Mershon Family Bibles* DVD's on the FamilySearch.org website. The objective is to make our Mershon family history more easily available to Mershon descendants.

We reviewed a proposed slate of nominations for our 2017 Mershon Association officers.

Following box lunches, we commenced our afternoon

program: We had a living history program on “Molly Pitcher,” portrayed by re-enactor Kim Hanley of the American Historical Theater in Philadelphia. Molly participated in the June 28, 1778 Battle of Monmouth, taking her husband's place operating a cannon when he fell due to heat exhaustion. Molly's financial circumstances were too dire to permit her to remain home while her husband fought in the Revolutionary War. Molly's choice was between staying at home cooking and cleaning for others (if she could find such paid work) or going with her husband and cooking and cleaning for him on or near the battlefield. Molly was one of many women who followed the army, performing valuable services that lifted the morale of the soldiers, as well as keeping them clean and fed. History has maligned such women, labeling them camp followers and even prostitutes. But this is unfair: it was better and more respectable for these women to stay with their husbands, rather than staying home.



Nathaniel Beun with “Molly Pitcher”

Kim Hanley explained what life was like during the Revolutionary War for women. Molly was not a small, delicate creature, but a woman who did what she had to do at the time. At the Battle of Monmouth, one day in a life that spanned decades, Molly's husband falls in battle and Molly takes his place, probably bending down and passing cannon cartridges. As a finale to her presentation, Kim recruited a volunteer crew from our audience to simulate operating a cannon using 18th century kitchen implements to mimic articles of war.

Lawrence Township Archives - Laura Nawrocik of the Mercer County Library Staff described how the Mershon Association archives are being incorporated into the Lawrence Township Archives. The archives are available for research by appointment with Laura Nawrocik at (609) 882-9246.

Resume Business Meeting: We elected the following 2017 Mershon Association officers -

President: Clare Mershon
Vice-President: David Beun
Treasurer: Joan Swearer

Recording Secretary: Elaine Tredinnick
Board of Trustees: Dr. Jim Mershon and Noel Barton
News Bulletin Editor: Harrison Hunt

Executive Board:

Dr. Jim Mershon	Noel Barton	Doris Harris	Clare Mershon
Beverly Mershon	Elaine Tredinnick	Harrison Hunt	David Beun
Joan Swearer	Barbara Trott	Linda Hunt	Connie Hensley

Planning Committee:

Clare Mershon (chairperson)	Jeanne Stotler	Elaine Tredinnick
Noel Barton	Sara Jane Mahan	Beverly Goldstein

We voted to hold our 2017 Annual Meeting in Lawrenceville on Saturday, July 22nd.

Following our tradition of "passing the hat," we collected \$295 in donations for our Mershon Association.

We adjourned our formal meeting at about 3:20 PM to travel to the former Andrew Mershon Tavern near Titusville.

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

Mershon Southern Chapter Reunion Postponed

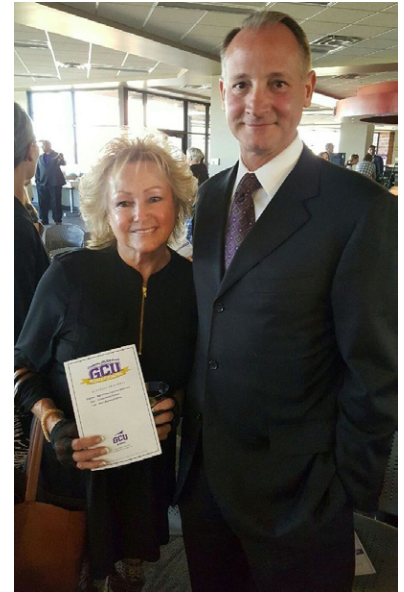
The Southern Chapter Reunion, originally scheduled for April 28 & 29, 2017 in Nashville, TN, has been postponed indefinitely because of a scheduling conflict with other events in Nashville that have raised the prices for available lodging accommodations.

For the latest information on Mershon Southern Chapter activities, please contact Wally Riviere at uuallygator@gmail.com or by phone at (352) 475-3938.

Mershon Family News

Andrew Unkefer of Phoenix, Arizona, has been inducted into the 2016 Alumni Hall of Fame for Grand Canyon University of Phoenix. A 1990 Colangelo College of Business graduate of the University, Andrew is the founder and President of Unkefer & Associates, a national annuity and life insurance marketing organization. Here a video link related to the Alumni Hall of Fame induction – <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C0tOmpfc89w>

Andrew is the son of Judy Mershon-Unkefer, a Henry Mershon III descendant.



Judy with Andrew at the induction ceremony.



Roy and Della in 2014

F. Leroy “Roy” Garrabrant, Jr., 95, of Neptune City, NJ, passed away at home on October 4, 2016. Roy was married for 69 years to **Della (Nash) Garrabrant**, a Houghton³ Mershon descendant. Until health conditions prevented their attendance in 2016, Roy and Della were faithful participants in our Mershon Reunions at Lawrenceville.

Roy earned a mechanical engineering degree at the Stevens Institute of Technology, but he spent most of his working career as a real estate broker and appraiser. Roy was very active in civic organizations. In later years, Roy developed macular degeneration that eventually caused him to go blind. He taught himself to type and became an active computer user with the assistance of technology that would audibly read incoming emails and a scanner that could audibly read written pages placed on the scanner. Roy published a 112 page book *Sunset... a Macular Journey*, 2008, about his experience of going blind with the hope of helping others experiencing this challenge. Here is a link - <https://www.amazon.com/Sunset-Macular-Journey-Leroy-Garrabrant/dp/1434358488>

Roy is survived by his wife Della, two sons and two grandchildren. Here is a link to Roy’s obituary - <http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/mycentraljersey/obituary.aspx?n=f-leroy-garrabrant&pid=181810680&fhid=27012>

Betty Sandra (Cain) Butler, 82, of Kansas City, Missouri, passed away on March 4, 2017. Betty was an avid genealogist and served for many years in elected positions with the Mershon Southern Chapter. She received the Nicholas & Clara Buroff Commemorative Service Award in 2013 for her outstanding service to our Mershon family. Betty was married for 65 years to Colonel Jim Butler, USAF (Retired). Jim is an Andrew³ Mershon descendant. She is survived by her husband Jim, two daughters four granddaughters and one great-grandson. Here is a link to Betty's obituary - <http://obittree.com/obituary/us/missouri/independence/speaks-suburban-chapel/betty-butler/2875938/>



JeanMarie (Linderman) Warpus, a Thomas³ Mershon descendant, recently wrote: *My uncle was Montague Linderman - son of Harry D. and **Nellie Mershon Linderman**. My uncle and his wife had a trust for perpetual care to the cemetery in Troy, PA (home to many Mershons). The trust was inactive for many years and because of this my husband and I were able to dissolve the trust and have it rewritten. Besides planning for perpetual care for the cemetery we also developed a scholarship in their memory. The Linderman/ McGlenn scholarship is for the nurses at the Robert Packer Hospital in Sayre, PA. The scholarship will enable nurses to continue their education. In return they must be employed for at least 2 years after receiving the money and the employment must be in a Guthrie facility (Robert Packer Hospital / Guthrie Clinic are a combined campus). The Guthrie Clinic is a multi-specialty group practice that is now part of the Mayo Clinic Care network. On Tuesday - January 10th - two scholarships (\$2,500 each) were awarded to nurses from the medical/ surgical department. I am a graduate of the RPH School of nursing and have had a very good career retiring a few years ago. I know how pleased my Uncle Monty would be to have this scholarship in place in Bradford County that was home to many of our descendants. If you would like more information please contact me -*
JeanMarie (Linderman) Warpus, RN, 201 Mary Lane, Scranton, PA 18505

Beverly Goldstein of Phoenicia, NY, notified us about a Feb. 8, 2017 New York Times article describing **Robert Marchand** of France who set a one-hour bicycling distance record for persons over age 105. Robert set a similar record in 2012 for persons over 100. You can read the article and see a photo of Robert at this link - https://www.nytimes.com/2017/02/08/well/move/lessons-on-aging-well-from-a-105-year-old-cyclist.html?emc=edit_nn_20170212&nl=morning-briefing&nid=70661822&te=1&r=0

Do you know **Mershon Townsend** of Kite, Georgia? The "American Pickers" program on the History Channel follows two antique dealers who travel around the U.S. looking to buy antiques hidden away in barns, garages and basements. Season 13, Episode 17, featured a visit to a large collection owned by Mershon Townsend. Here is a link - <http://www.history.com/shows/american-pickers/season-13/episode-17> Thank you to Doug and Carol (Mershon) Quinn of Corbett, Oregon, for this tip.

The funeral for former U.S. Senator and astronaut John Glenn was on held on Dec. 17, 2016 in the **Mershon Auditorium** on the Ohio State University campus in Columbus. Almost 2,500 persons attended. **Ralph D. Mershon** (1868-1952) left his estate of \$7.5 million to Ohio State University, his alma mater. A portion of Ralph Mershon's bequest was used to build the auditorium, which opened in 1957.

Mershon Genealogy

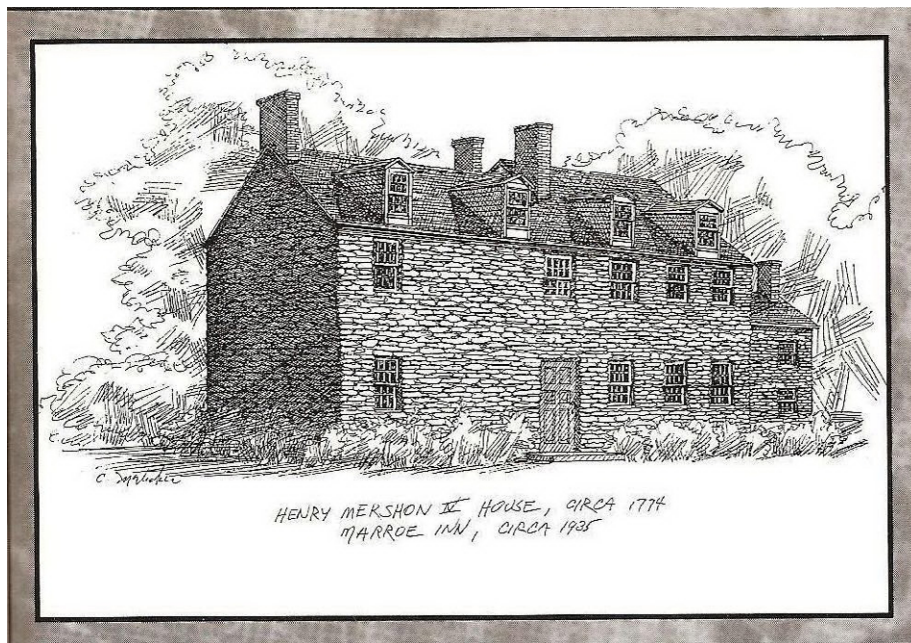
Our Mershon Association Genealogist is Pam Caffrey, 232 Momar Drive, Ramsey, NJ 07446; Email: pcaffrey24@outlook.com; Cell Phone: (201) 739-2308. We have over 35,000 individual records in our Mershon genealogy database going back to 1685. Contact Pam if you have updates to share or want to know what is in our genealogy database for your Mershon family line. For 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.

Former Henry Mershon IV House / Marroe Inn

by Clare Mershon of Portland, OR

Did you ever eat at the Marroe Inn restaurant in Lawrenceville? We published a circa 1970 photograph in our June 2016 Bulletin, page 7, showing the exterior of the Marroe Inn, formerly located on US 1 – Business in Lawrenceville, NJ. This stone building was originally the farm home of Henry Mershon IV (1740 – 1815). Later it was known as the Welling farmhouse. It was remodeled to become the Marroe Inn, a popular dining spot for many decades during the 20th Century.



Courtesy of Charles McVicker

This pen and ink drawing by artist Charles McVicker of Princeton shows how the building looked before it became the Marroe Inn. Henry IV married Sarah Hunt in 1764/5. They had 14 children, so they needed a large house. This historic structure was demolished in 1999 to clear the ground for a Lexus car dealership.

If you have memories of the Marroe Inn, we would be interested to know your stories.

Henry Theodore Titus (1823-1881)

by Clare Mershon of Portland, Oregon

Did you know that Henry Theodore Titus, an Andrew³ Mershon descendant, founded Titusville, Florida, now a city of over 44,000, adjacent to the Kennedy Spaceflight Center at Cape Canaveral? Henry was descended from Andrew³ through Lieut. Henry⁴ and his daughter Sarah⁵ who married John Titus.

Members of the Titus family also founded the village of Titusville, NJ, located on the Delaware River, north of Washington Crossing.

Henry Titus was a controversial person. He was born in Trenton, NJ, but migrated to Florida. In the early 1850s, he was involved in an effort to liberate Cuba from the Spanish. In 1856, he led a group of 1,000 Florida men to Kansas to reinforce the pro-slavery forces there. Henry was present at the sacking of Lawrence, KS, then was captured by Kansas free-state forces who surrounded his reinforced log cabin home known as "Fort Titus" near Lecompton, KS. He was freed in a prisoner exchange. Henry then spent time in Nicaragua. During the Civil War, he sold supplies to the Confederacy.



Henry Theodore Titus

After the Civil War, Henry and his wife Mary settled on the Indian River in Florida where he laid out the future City of Titusville. For more information, you can read a paper written by Henry's great-grandson, Harry Titus, at this online link - <http://www.latinamericanstudies.org/filibusters/Titus-Trail.pdf>

I must credit the late Bill Trott, former Mershon Association Genealogist, for making me aware of this controversial connection to our Mershon family.

As a historical irony, Andrew³ Mershon descendant Andrew H. Reeder of Easton, PA, was appointed by President Franklin Pierce in 1854 to be Territorial Governor of Kansas. Gov. Reeder served from Oct. 1854 to July 1855. He aligned himself with the free-state forces in the Kansas Territory. However, the free-state vs. slavery conflict caused Gov. Reeder to resign and leave Kansas on threat of his death.

Marie Louise "Weedie" (Reeder) Stokes (1914 - 2013) was a great-grandaughter of Gov. Reeder. Using information furnished by Weedie plus his own research, former Mershon Association President Dr. Jim Mershon of Wichita, KS, has written an interesting article about Gov. Reeder that you can read at mershonassoc.com.

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.

Membership in the Sons of the American Revolution

by Clare Mershon of Portland, OR

John Kaster of Debary, Florida, was recently accepted into the Sons of the American Revolution (SAR) based on documenting his descent from Lieutenant Henry⁴ Mershon, son of Andrew³ Mershon. The SAR has provided John with a beautiful membership certificate. John writes: *“Believe me, it is not easy becoming a member, it is usually the result of a long and meticulous process of preparing a membership application together with the Sons of the American Revolution verifying everything.”*

Our Mershon Association assisted John in his SAR application by providing his Mershon family ancestry from our genealogy database. However, we were unable to provide John with names of other Mershon descendants who are current SAR members that might have been able to assist in his application. If you are a SAR member based on your Mershon ancestry, please notify our Mershon Association Genealogist, Pam Caffrey, at pcaffrey24@outlook.com.

Besides SAR, most Mershon descendants are eligible for membership in other American lineage associations including Daughters of the American Revolution, Colonial Dames, Flagon and Trencher (descendants of colonial tavern keepers) and New Jersey Founders. *Mershon Patriots*, revised in 2009 by William & Barbara Trott, lists Mershon descendants who participated in the Revolutionary War.

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 twice-yearly 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 2016. However, unidentified cash contributions made while “passing the hat” our 2016 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.

Teresa Smith, Broomfield, CO
Kathleen Koehl, Rolling Meadows, IL
Willard Tayler, Reno, NV
John Kaster, Debary, FL
Kenneth & Patricia Bond, Davidson, NC
Denny & Martha Ford, Greenfield, IL
Sandra Mershon, Forest Lake, MN
Sharon Harper, Pike Road, AL

Dr. & Mrs. Howell H. Gwin, Jr., Beaumont, TX
Kenneth McCone, Livingston, TX
Karen J. Zickert, Pittsville, WI
Richard & Beverly Smith, Bedford, TX
Tom & Elaine Tredinnick, Ingleside, IL
G. Ronald Powell, San Antonio, TX
Diane Buroff, San Rafael, CA
B. Marvin & Sally Thomas, Venice, FL

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 1,012 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 June 2016 bulletin cost \$545.67 to print and mail 348 copies, a cost of \$1.57 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 postpaid from Doris Harris, P.O. Box 793, Camden, TN 38320. Contact Doris by email at drharr@att.net, or by telephone at (731) 584-9967.

5. For a summary 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

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

Pacific Northwest Mershon Picnic in Troutdale, OR, August 21,2016



Front Row (sitting and kneeling), L to R: Clare Mershon, Christine Mershon, Colleen Mershon, Sharon Mershon, Lloyd McKenny Sr., Lloyd & Maya McKenny Jr., Carol Quinn.

Back Row (Standing), L to R: Everett Anderson, Lou & Karen Basté, Tom Mershon, Caleb Tonn held by Doug McGuire, Michael Mershon, Kara Tonn holding infant Holly Tonn, Audrey Tonn held by Elise McGuire, Perry Mershon (behind Elise), Paige Mershon, Curtis Mershon, Andrea Mershon, _____ (family friend), Mary Stephens, Gracie _____ (family friend), Aaron McKillip-Stephens (in front of Gracie), Sarah McKillip-Stephens, Doug Quinn.



Le Marchand

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

Return Service Requested

Upcoming Mershon Family Events

July 22, 2017 (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 (US1 - Business), Lawrenceville, NJ 08648.

August 20, 2017 (Sunday) - **Pacific Northwest Mershon Family Potluck Picnic**, 12 noon to 4 pm at the Glen 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) 252-7139.

The **2017 Mershon Southern Chapter Reunion** has been postponed. See page 3.



Mershon Polo Shirts

are still available for \$16.00 each at our Annual Meeting on July 22, 2017, 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.