



Mershon News Bulletin

THE MERSHON FAMILY ASSOCIATION
ORGANIZED AT TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, SEPTEMBER 8th, 1923

Mershon Name

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

Le Marchand

July 19, 2023

2023 Virtual Mershon Annual Meeting and Reunion

Our 2023 Mershon Annual Meeting and Reunion will be a virtual meeting on Zoom this year. Please join us as we meet online Saturday afternoon, July 29th, at 4:00 PM Eastern Time (3:00 PM Central Time, 2:00 PM Mountain Time, 1:00 PM Pacific Time).

We had hoped to have our 2023 meeting on a private university campus near Lawrenceville, NJ because they could offer meeting space, overnight accommodations and food service. However, we found out in late May that meeting their liability insurance requirements would be very costly. Therefore, our Executive Board decided on June 9th to have a virtual meeting this year.

We will have a short Mershon Association business meeting, followed by a Mershon history presentation. There will be time at the end of our meeting for family members to share their family history stories and show family artifacts. We will use the "Raise your Hand" feature on Zoom to individually recognize family members wanting to share their stories. We anticipate our meeting will last about 1.5 hours.

We received positive feedback from our two virtual meetings during the COVID pandemic in 2020 and 2021. There were 109 family units who viewed some or all of our 2021 virtual meeting. While we will miss the camaraderie of an in-person meeting, an online meeting allows more family members to participate.

REGISTER NOW for our 2023 Mershon Association Annual Meeting. It is FREE but registration is required. Register at this internet address:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Xqk8NKYpTkWMayZLlz0eHA

For family members who receive our bulletin by U.S. Mail, but also have email access, please send your email address to Clare Mershon at ecmershon@aol.com so you can join our 2023 meeting.

Many thanks to Melissa Mershon of Louisville, KY, for again volunteering her expertise to host our 2023 virtual meeting.

Report on the 2022 Mershon Annual Meeting and Reunion

by Clare & Sharon Mershon, Portland, OR



Front Row, L to R: Lorie & Dan Mershon, Sharon & Clare Mershon, Elaine & Tom Tredinnick, Linda Hunt, Mary O'Neal.

Back Row, L to R: Harrison Hunt, Dave Beun, Unidentified, Diana Ricigliano-Crannage, Jeff Mershon, Charles Johnsrud, Joan Swearer, Pam Caffrey, Melissa Mershon.

Bill O'Neal Photograph

The 2022 annual meeting of the **Association of the Descendants of Henry Mershon** was called to order on Saturday, July 23rd, at 10:15 am in the Community Meeting Room at the Lawrence Headquarters Branch of the Mercer County Library, Lawrenceville, NJ. Following a welcome and orientation, we started live streaming our meeting. After an invocation and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance, each family group present introduced themselves and shared information about their Mershon ancestry.

Treasurer Report: Joan Swearer reported on our finances. (**Update:** As of 12/31/2022, we had a checking account balance of \$3,384.98. We also have a \$10,423.51 Certificate of Deposit).

Genealogist Report: Pam Caffrey reported on our Mershon genealogy database. We have over 36,000 individual records of Mershon descendants and spouses going back to 1685. Pam is administrator of the Mershon Association Genealogy Group on Facebook (see the Mershon Genealogy article on page 8).

Heritage Organizations: Elaine Tredinnick made a presentation to encourage membership in heritage organizations. Most Mershon descendants can qualify for membership in **Daughters of the American Revolution** or **Sons of the American Revolution**. These two organizations have designated persons in each chapter to help prospective members assemble their documentation. All Mershon descendants qualify for membership in **Descendants of Founders of New Jersey**. See - <https://www.njfounders.org/> Andrew³ Mershon descendants qualify for membership in **Flagon and Trencher**, an organization for descendants of colonial tavern keepers. See - <http://www.flagonandtrencher.org/index.htm>

Lawrence Township Archives: Laura Nawrocik of the Mercer County Library Staff visited our meeting to introduce Dr. Brooke Hunter, Associate Dean, College of Arts and Sciences at Rider University. Dr. Hunter is also the Lawrence Township Historian, a voluntary position. Laura maintains the Lawrence Township Archives, located in a locked room at the library. Our Mershon archives are part of the Township Archives. You can make an appointment to view the archives by contacting Laura at (609) 538-8112 or by email at geronimo819@yahoo.com.

Show and Tell: Dave Beun displayed the original 1738 Henry Mershon II stone grave maker. Dave salvaged this stone after the current grave marker boulder fell over in 2019. The 1925 concrete footing under the boulder was replaced. The original 1738 stone was embedded in the bottom of the 1925 footing. Dave had to chip the

concrete around the stone to release it. The 1738 stone will become part of the Lawrence Township Archives.

Clare Mershon displayed two photographs of a painting showing the W.C. Mershon sailing schooner, This ship was constructed at the shipyard of brothers William Condon⁷ Mershon and Daniel Smith⁷ Mershon, Jr., located on the Delaware River at Bordentown, NJ (see related article starting on page 4).

Harrison Hunt displayed his collection of Sherlock Holmes books published by The Mershon Company of Rahway, NJ. This publishing company was active from 1874 into the early 1900s. Our Treasurer, Joan Swearer, is descended from William Livingston Mershon, the founder of this company.

The livestream portion of our meeting ended at noon. Following box lunches, we resumed our meeting at 1:00 pm.

Minutes: The minutes of our 2021 virtual annual meeting were approved as printed.

Executive Board Report: We met at the Hampton Inn, Princeton, on Friday evening, July 22nd, 2022.

- We discussed having a special 2023 Annual Meeting and & Reunion to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Mershon Association. Details to be determined.
- We decided to offer the original 1738 Henry Mershon stone grave marker to the Lawrence Township Archives.
- With the assistance of Melissa Mershon, we are trying a hybrid in-person and online meeting this year. If hybrid meetings continue, Melissa recommends hiring video production students with professional equipment from a nearby university. We agreed this is a good idea.
- We reviewed proposed Mershon Constitution amendments. These amendments will be presented for approval by the members at this annual meeting.
- We discussed sponsoring a new contest to solicit Mershon family stories. No decision was reached.
- We agreed on a proposed slate of 2023 officer nominations.

Mershon Constitution Amendments: We voted to approve the proposed Mershon Constitution amendments sent to our membership with the June 21, 2022 Mershon News Bulletin. These amendments were originally proposed by Harrison Hunt and were developed in their final form by Harrison, Dave Beun and Jeff Mershon. We thank them for their work. The main purpose is to make our Mershon Association more likely to be approved for 501(c)(3) non-profit tax status by the IRS. Highlights of the amendments are:

- The name of our corporation is changed to “The Mershon Family Association, Inc.”
- The Purposes of the Association are expanded to highlight the educational nature of our activities, state that our programs are open to the general public and we will not engage in political activities.
- Association membership can include any person interested in promoting the purposes of our Association, even if they are not a lineal Mershon descendant or a Mershon adoptee.
- A new Article VII is added to cover would happen in event of dissolution. Assets shall be distributed for one or more exempt purposes within the meaning of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Election of 2023 Officers: The following officers were elected –

President: Clare Mershon

Genealogist: Pam Caffrey

Vice-President: David Beun

Recording Secretary: Vacant

Treasurer: Joan Swearer

News Bulletin Editor: Vacant

Executive Board:

Clare Mershon

Harrison Hunt

Daniel Mershon

David Beun

Elaine Tredinnick

Lorie Mershon

Joan Swearer

Jeff Mershon

Pam Caffrey

Noel Barton

2023 Mershon Annual Meeting: We voted to hold our 2023 meeting in Lawrenceville.

Adjournment: Our formal meeting ended at about 3:00 pm. Following clean-up and putting away the chairs and tables, several of us visited the former Andrew Mershon Tavern near Titusville, NJ. The Smith family was away, so we contented ourselves with walking around the house.

We gathered at 6:00 pm for a no-host group dinner in the Olive Garden Restaurant at the Mercer Mall on the Brunswick Pike (U.S. Route 1). This event concluded our meeting.

W.C. Mershon Schooner* Painting

by Clare Mershon, Portland, OR

Did you know there was a Mershon shipyard during the mid-1800s at Bordentown, NJ, seven miles south of Trenton?

Bill Craig, owner of a Philadelphia architecture firm named Mershon Design, contacted me in June 2022 to share photographs of a large oil painting of the W.C. Mershon schooner, built at the Mershon shipyard. The unsigned painting is 47" wide x 34" high, including the frame.



W.C. Mershon Schooner



Detail showing pennants at the mast tops. A Union Jack is on the left. W.C. Mershon is at center. A capital M with a star at each corner is on the right.

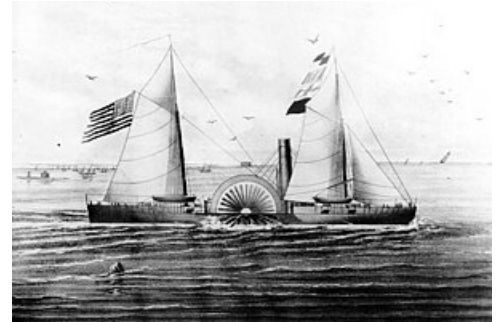
Bill is a descendant of William Condon⁷ (W.C.) Mershon (1822-1891). As described by *Henry Mershon III and His Descendants*, 1953, pages 41 & 42, W.C. and his brother Daniel Smith⁷ (D.S.) Mershon, Jr., operated a shipyard on the Delaware River at Bordentown.

***Schooner:** *A ship with two or more masts, all of which are fore-and-aft-rigged, the mainmast being abaft of and taller than the foremast. American Heritage Dictionary*

The W.C. Mershon schooner was built at the Mershon shipyard. Internet ship records say the W.C. Mershon schooner was launched in 1855. The ship hull was 138' long x 28' wide. The W.C. Mershon was engaged in coastal trade along the middle Atlantic states. It was active during the Civil War supplying Union outposts. A March 26, 1862 *New York Times* front-page article titled "*News from the Gulf*" reports the W.C. Mershon was at Union-held Fort Pickens (near Pensacola, Florida). ShipIndex.org reports the W.C. Mershon was still active in 1871.

Bordentown 1682-1976, a book compiled by the Bordentown Area Bicentennial Committee and Bordentown Historical Society, page 85, says that beginning in 1848, the Mershon shipyard built the schooner Mary Mershon (Mary was the mother of W.C. and D.S. Mershon), the D.S. Mershon, the W.C. Mershon, the Joseph W. Allen and the Wm. A Newell.

During the Civil War, the Mershon shipyard received contracts to build two U.S. Navy gunboats. The first was the USS Cimarron, launched at Bordentown on March 16, 1862. All the ship building was performed at Bordentown. This gunboat was 208' long x 35' wide. It was propelled by side paddlewheels and was double-ended for operating on rivers. It was outfitted for military service at the Philadelphia Navy Yard and commissioned on July 5, 1862. For information about its Civil War service, see – [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Cimarron_\(1862\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Cimarron_(1862))



USS Cimarron

The second gunboat was the USS Mingoe, launched at Bordentown on August 6, 1863. It was similar to the Cimarron, but added iron cladding above the water line on the wooden sides to protect the crew. Only the hull and some additional fittings were constructed at Bordentown. The rest of the ship building was performed by others at Wilmington, Delaware. The ship was commissioned on July 29, 1864. For information about its Civil War service, see – https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Mingoe

The Mershon shipyard later built the tug Union and the schooners Buckeye and Edmund S. Watson.

Sharon and I visited Bordentown the day after the 2022 Mershon reunion in Lawrenceville, but we didn't notice any visible trace of the Mershon shipyard. Several months later, I talked with Sally Garrison Thomas of Venice, FL, a D.S. Mershon descendant who grew up in Bordentown. Sally believes the shipyard was near the train station, adjacent to the train tracks that follow the Delaware River.

For your interest, see Bill Craig's business website – <https://www.mershondesign.com/>

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 2022.

David & Joanna Beun, Mount Laurel, NJ

Harrison & Linda Hunt, Catskill, NY

Vernon C. Thomson, Vermont, IL

Charles A. Johnsrud, Yardley, PA

Benjamin M. Phillips, Basking Ridge, NJ

Andrew W. Hutnik Jr., Jonesport, ME

John Kaster, Debary, FL

Susan Hagamen, New York, NY

Martha E. Ford, Greenfield, IL

Clare & Sharon Mershon, Portland, OR

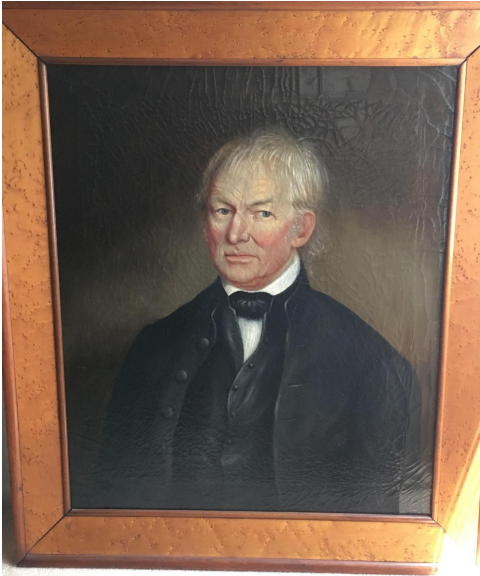
Melissa Mershon, Louisville, KY

John⁵ and Jane (Lindsey) Gardner Mershon Portraits

John⁵, Aaron⁴, Peter³, Henry II, Henri

by Clare Mershon, Portland, OR

Paul Sheirich of San Leandro, CA, registered on our Mershon website in February 2023. Paul has two 1850 oil paintings on canvas showing his ancestors John and Jane (Lindsey) Gardner Mershon. John was 77 years old at the time, and Jane was 61 (as recorded on the back of the paintings). Paul also has a 1850 painting on wood showing their home near West Springfield, Erie County, PA. John and Jane's home was located in the NW corner of Pennsylvania, three miles east of the Ohio state border and three miles south of Lake Erie. All three paintings are by Garret S. Rice of Warren, PA.



John⁵ Mershon
1773-1851



Jane (Lindsey) Gardner Mershon
1789-1855

As described in *Peter Mershon and his Descendants*, 1952, John was three years old when his father Aaron⁴ Mershon was killed in the American Revolutionary War during the Battle of Long Island on August 27, 1776. Aaron was serving in the First Hunterdon County (NJ) Militia Regiment. Later, the family home near Princeton was burned by British soldiers. John and his older sister Jane⁵ were largely raised in their Uncle Daniel⁴ Mershon's home.



John & Jane Mershon's home near West Springfield, PA

John left New Jersey in 1796 and settled in Erie County, PA. He married Bathsheba Brush in 1799. They had 12 children together until Bathsheba's death in 1817. John remarried in 1818 to Jane (Lindsey) Gardner, a widow with two young children. John and Jane had five more children together. You can see John's family chart in *Peter Mershon and His Descendants*, page 35. Paul Sheirich is descended from John and Jane's youngest child, Ora Bathsheba⁶ Mershon.

Paul recently had these paintings cleaned. We thank him for sharing these wonderful paintings with us!

Note: Superscripts refer to Mershon family generation numbers in America.

Elias James⁵ Mershon, Charles H. & Jane Eliza⁶ (Mershon) Brower Portraits

Jane Eliza⁶, Elias James⁵, James⁴, Thomas³, Henry II, Henri

by Clare Mershon, Portland, OR

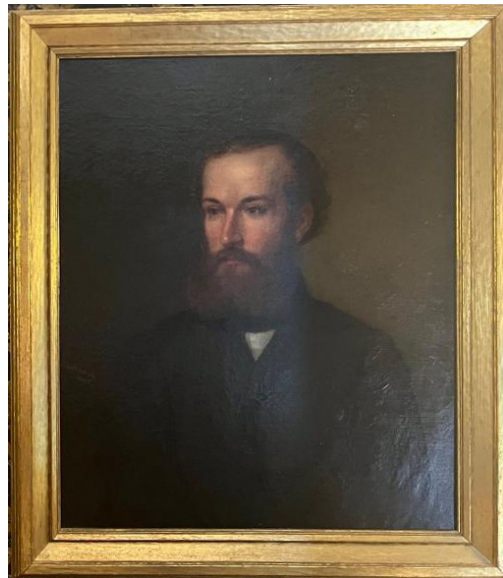
Christopher Beach of La Jolla, CA, has three portraits of his ancestors Elias James Mershon, Charles Homan & Jane Eliza (Mershon) Brower. Elias was Jane's father. The portraits of Charles & Jane (Mershon) Brower were dated by the artist, Conrad Highwood of Chicago, IL, in 1863 and 1864 respectively.



*Elias James⁵ Mershon
1802-1872*



*Jane Eliza⁶ (Mershon) Brower
1830-1915*



*Charles Homan Brower
1828-1888*

As recorded in *Thomas Mershon and His Descendants and Daughters of Henry II*, 1957, pages 43-45, Elias was born in New Jersey. His father died in an accident when Elias was 12. Elias went to live with his older brother Robert's family near Rochester, NY. In 1826, he married Hannah Southwick in Rochester. Elias and Hannah had three sons and one daughter, all born in the Rochester vicinity.

Elias moved his family to Saginaw, Michigan, in about 1850. There were extensive pine forests to be harvested in northern Michigan. Elias established the first lumber planning mill in Saginaw according to the autobiography of his grandson, William Butts Mershon.

The interesting story of *The Mershon Family of Saginaw, Michigan* was researched and written by Mershon descendant James K. Kinnaman of Saginaw in 2010. With his permission, you can read this story on our Mershon website at this link - <file:///C:/Users/ecmer/Downloads/The-Saginaw-Mershons.pdf>

Jane Eliza Mershon married Charles H. Brower in 1855. Jane and Charles had one son and four daughters. Christopher Beach is descended from their daughter Mary Hannah Brower.

Christopher writes: *The Mershon name has a powerful hold on many of us, even when descendants have 'lost' Mershon as their family name. My mother (Jane Eliza's great-granddaughter) was Jane Mershon Baker and my sister (Jane Eliza's great-great-granddaughter) is Mershon Beach. In this line of our family, the descendants have found every way to keep the name of Mershon alive.*

We thank Christopher for sharing these fine portraits with us.

Note: Superscripts refer to Mershon family generation numbers in America.

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 415 members. Check it out and please consider joining. To keep this group focused on Mershon Genealogy, there are a few questions that you will be asked to answer before being added to the group. If you invite someone to join, we ask that they either have Mershon lineage or are related by marriage to a Mershon. Please note that several people are currently listed as “pending” to join our group because they have not answered the membership questions yet.

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.

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 1,015 mail and email addresses on our mailing list. We need your help to avoid losing contact with you when your mail address or email 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 with color photographs and our Association saves the cost of printing and postage. Our June 2022 bulletin cost \$579.16 to print and mail 274 copies at a cost of \$2.11 each.
- 4. Visit our Mershon Family Association website at: mershonfamilyassoc.org**

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.

Mershon Family Store

The following **Mershon Genealogy Books** and the **Mershon Family Coat of Arms** are available from Mershon Association Treasurer Joan Swearer, 60 Maple Avenue, Rahway, NJ 07065. Contact Joan by email at jtswearer@gmail.com

Mershon Genealogy Books by Grace Lucile Olmstead Mershon

1. My Folks, 1946, 60 pages, \$9.00
2. Houghton Mershon and His Descendants, 1949, 24 pages, \$9.00
3. Peter Mershon and His Descendants, 1952, 60 pages, \$9.00
4. Henry Mershon III and His Descendants, 1953, 49 pages, \$9.00
5. Andrew Mershon and His Descendants, 1955, 117 pages, \$9.00
6. Thomas Mershon and His Descendants and Daughters of Henry II, 1957, 66 pages, \$9.00
7. Mershon Patriots, Rev. 2009 by William & Barbara Trott, 20 pages, \$5.00

The above genealogy books describe the first six Mershon generations in America. These books may be purchased separately for the postpaid price shown above or \$45.00 postpaid for the set of seven. In addition, a 5" x 6.5" copy of the Mershon family crest is included free with each set purchased. These books can be viewed online at: <https://www.familysearch.org/search/catalog/results?count=20&query=%2Bsurname%3Amershon>

Mershon Family Coat of Arms – a 9.5" x 12.5" version of our family coat of arms on heavyweight glossy paper is available for \$10.00 postpaid.

Mershon Polo Shirts – These grey color polo shirts have a red family coat of arms. See these shirts in the group photo on page 2. Available by mail for \$19.50 each postpaid from David Beun, 226 Meadow Drive, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054. Contact David by email at drbeun1@gmail.com, or by telephone at (609) 417-3323.

The following items are available from Clare Mershon, 3809 NE 136th Place, Portland, OR 97230-2720. Contact Clare by email at ecmershon@aol.com, or by telephone at (503) 679-7990.

Andrew Mershon Tavern Album, 2007, 23 pages - Photograph album including a main floor plan, a brief history, eight historic black-and-white exterior photographs and 17 color photographs showing both the interior and exterior. Also included are two notices referring to Andrew Mershon from the 1779 New Jersey Gazette and a section from a 1781 British Army map showing the location of Mershon's Tavern. Available for \$20.00 postpaid.

Video Tour of the Andrew Mershon Tavern, 2005 – DVD filmed professionally with Elmer Smith, the longtime owner who carefully did the restoration, providing the narration. This 43 minute video is available for \$20.00 postpaid.

Mershon Family History in New Jersey, 2006 – DVD filmed professionally with narration by Mershon descendants. This video shows the grave site of Henry Mershon II, the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, Nassau Hall and FitzRandolph Gate at Princeton University, and the ca.1740 former home of Houghton Mershon. This 44 minute video complements the Andrew Mershon Tavern video. Available for \$25.00 postpaid.



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

Return Service Requested

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2023 Mershon Family Events Calendar

July 29, 2023, Saturday afternoon - Mershon Association Annual Meeting and Reunion.
This will be a virtual meeting on Zoom beginning at 4:00 PM Eastern Time (3:00 PM Central Time, 2:00 PM Mountain Time, 1:00 PM Pacific Time). See the meeting announcement on page 1.

August 20, 2023, Sunday afternoon - Pacific Northwest Mershon Family & Friends Potluck Picnic. 12:00 noon to 4:00 PM. Tentatively at Dodge Park on the Sandy River, 10021 SE Lusted Road, Sandy, OR 97055. To confirm the location, contact Clare Mershon at ecmershon@aol.com or by phone at (503) 679-7990.