



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 4, 2024

2024 Mershon Association Annual Meeting & Reunion

Our Mershon Association Annual Meeting & Reunion, will begin at 10 AM on Saturday morning, August 10th. 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.

Lodging: We have a group rate for lodging at the Hampton Inn Princeton, 4385 US Highway 1, Princeton, NJ 08540. See the Registration Form on the second page for more information.

Introductions: Each family group will have an opportunity to introduce themselves, share where they live and describe their connection to our Mershon family.

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.

Business Meeting: We will receive a Treasurer report and elect Mershon Association officers for 2025.

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. Vegetarian selections are available by request.

Afternoon Program: We will have a special presentation by **Thomas Jefferson** – portrayed by Steven Edenbo of the American Historical Theater in Philadelphia. Mr. Edenbo has interpreted Thomas Jefferson at venues including Monticello, the Jefferson home near Charlottesville, VA, the National Archives in Washington D.C., Independence National Historical Park in Philadelphia and numerous middle and high schools and colleges. His presentation will be approximately one hour with an opportunity for questions and answers.

Tour of Family History Sites: We will visit the former Houghton³ Mershon home on 16 acres of land originally owned by our common ancestor Henry Mershon II (1672-1738). This circa 1740 home has been owned by Steve and Cindy Olentine since 2017. They have been making updates while preserving the historical character of the home. We will also visit the Henry II grave site and the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville (PCL). Henry II was one of 36 recipients of a 1710 deed to establish a church meeting house in Maidenhead that became PCL.



*Steven Edenbo as
Thomas Jefferson*

Saturday Evening: You are invited to join us for a group dinner at a local restaurant.

Suggestions Welcome: We welcome your suggestions for our 2024 meeting agenda. Please contact Clare Mershon at ecmershon@aol.com or by phone at (503) 679-7990 (Oregon).

Report on the 2023 Mershon Association Annual Meeting

By Clare Mershon, Portland, Oregon

Our 2023 Mershon Association Annual meeting was a video conference. We met online on Saturday, July 29th at 4:00 PM EDT (1:00 PM PDT). Melissa Mershon of Louisville, Kentucky, hosted our meeting on Zoom.

Melissa opened our meeting with two polling questions:

Q – Where are you listening from? **A-** All over the U.S., with most from the Northeastern U.S. There were several listening from outside the U.S.

Q – Is this the first time you have attended a Mershon meeting? **A-** 27% of the respondents had never attended a Mershon meeting. 46% had only attended a meeting using Zoom.

Q- Our common ancestor, Henry Mershon II, had 10 children. What is your lineage from his children? **A-** Andrew³ descendants were the most predominate.

President Clare Mershon of Portland, OR, gave welcoming remarks. We are grateful to our Mershon ancestors who researched our early family history and wrote it down!

Treasurer Joan Swearer of Rahway, NJ, reported our Association’s checking account has a balance of \$4,154.98. We have a Certificate of Deposit for \$10,610.24. We do not charge member dues, relying mostly on donations from Mershon descendants.

Genealogist Pam Caffrey of Ramsey, NJ, reported our genealogy database has over 36,000 records of Mershon descendants and spouses going back to 1685. Pam summarized our early family history beginning with the arrival in New York of Henri Marchand with his 13 year-old son Henry II in 1685. They were Huguenots (French protestants) who had been subjected to religious persecution in France. Henri left his son with friends in New York and returned to France to get the rest of his family, but he never returned to America. Henri may have been lost at sea or have been a victim of religious persecution when he returned to France. Past efforts to find more information in France about the family who lived in the area of Caen, Normandy, have not been successful.

“Henry Marshan” is listed in a 1698 census of Newtown, NY (on western end of Long Island) as the head of a household of three, presumably including his wife and oldest son Henry III. They moved to Maidenhead, NJ, in about 1700, when West Jersey opened up for settlement. Maidenhead is now known as Lawrenceville. Henry II and wife eventually had five sons and five daughters. Pam described what we know about Henry II’s children and their children. We have descendant information about all of Henry II’s children except daughter Sarah.

The Mershon Association Genealogy Group on Facebook now has 420 members. This is a private group set up by Pam. Access is limited to members. To keep this group focused on Mershon genealogy, there are a few questions you will be asked to answer before being added to this group.

President Clare Mershon presented a photograph program about: **1.** the former Andrew Mershon Colonial Tavern and **2.** the FitzRandolph/Mershon connection to Princeton University.

1. The former Andrew Mershon Colonial Tavern is now a private home, located nine miles north of Trenton at 1258 Bear Tavern Road, Titusville, NJ 08560. The oldest part of the home dates at least to the early 1700s.

The home was originally owned by Cornelius Anderson, father of Andrew Mershon’s wife Fransinah. Andrew and Fransinah began living there in the 1730s, initially renting from the estate of Cornelius



Former Andrew Mershon Tavern

Anderson. Andrew's earliest tavern license on file at the New Jersey Archives is from 1746. Andrew and Fransinah had 10 children. They resided there until Andrew's death in 1793.

The home has been owned by the Elmer Smith family since 1976. Elmer and his three sons spent two years restoring the home before moving in. Elmer, age 90, passed away from COVID-19 in 2020. One of Elmer's grandsons and family are now living in the home. We viewed 13 photographs showing the outside and inside of the home.

2. In 1729, Nathaniel FitzRandolph married Rebekah Mershon, daughter of Henry Mershon II. The FitzRandolph family owned much of the land on which the campus of **Princeton University** is now located. In 1753, Nathaniel and Rebekah donated 4.5 acres for the establishment of the College of New Jersey in Princeton, which later became Princeton University. Nathaniel and Rebekah's signatures both appear on the deed. Nassau Hall, the original college building, was built on this parcel. When completed in 1756, it was considered the largest building in the 13 American colonies.

Augustus Van Wickle, a descendant of Nathaniel and Rebekah, donated money in 1905 for construction of an ornamental wrought iron gate and fence in front of Nassau Hall that covers 278' of the 400' frontage on Nassau Street that was donated by his ancestors. This gate is named the FitzRandolph Gate.

Nathaniel and Rebecca's home was located immediately west of the parcel they donated to the college. The FitzRandolph family burial ground was located near their home. The FitzRandolph's were Quakers who only marked their graves with field stones because they wanted to avoid graven images.

Excavation in 1909 for the foundations of Holder Hall, a college dormitory, unearthed 32 old unmarked graves from the FitzRandolph family burial ground. Princeton University President Woodrow Wilson directed the contents of the graves be preserved in separate boxes and reinterred under the eastern archway of Holder Hall with a memorial tablet on the wall of the archway.

John Witherspoon, a Presbyterian minister from Scotland, was the college president from 1768 to 1794. He was one of the New Jersey delegates to the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. Witherspoon was the only clergyman and only college president to sign the American Declaration of Independence. Students during Witherspoon's presidency became 37 Judges (three of whom became justices of the U.S. Supreme Court), 49 U.S. Congressmen, 28 U.S. Senators, 10 Cabinet officers, one Vice President and one President, James Madison. The college had a big influence on the early history of our country and is one of the premier universities in our nation now. We viewed five photographs showing Princeton University including the two shown here.



FitzRandolph Gate with Nassau Hall behind. Princeton Univ. Photo



FitzRandolph Memorial Tablet at Holder Hall.

Show and Tell: Melissa Mershon opened our meeting to receive comments and questions from meeting participants using the "Raise Hand" feature on Zoom to recognize persons with comments to share.

President Clare Mershon reported that all of our Association officers and Executive Board members have agreed to extend their terms of office to 2024 when we intend to meet in person in Lawrenceville, NJ. Clare thanked Melissa Mershon for hosting our Zoom meeting.

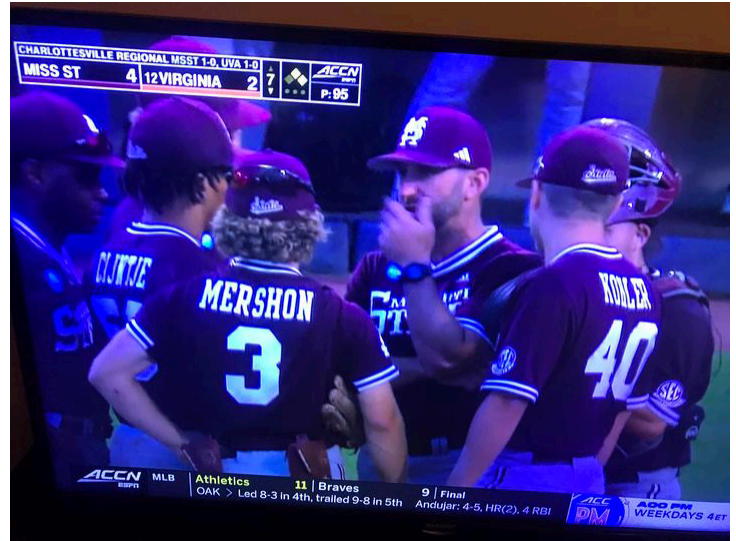
You can watch a video recording of our 2023 meeting, including the "Show and Tell" comments, on our Mershon website at this link - <https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/PEuLfFYKJxXcccccWnNc1jWHJ3UhWUKciOYNkI9wmlQyV4nXGjv3x5Y1GRgrPSv0O0KxX.suL24Z7f7bWeeuWg?startTime=1690660465000>

Passcode: 4y#Mq*?e

Mershon Family News

Did you know a David Mershon played in the recent 2024 NCAA College Baseball Tournament?

We thank Mike Mershon of Lakeland, FL, for posting this June 1st photograph on the Mershon Association Genealogy Group Facebook page. It shows David Mershon, sophomore short stop on the Mississippi State baseball team, during a timeout as they were playing the University of Virginia during the NCAA Regional Tournament in Charlottesville, VA. While David's team did not advance beyond the Charlottesville Regional Tournament, David was selected to the 2024 Charlottesville All-Regional Team as a short stop. He was also selected to the 2024 First Team All-Southeastern Conference Team. You can learn more about David's baseball accomplishments at this Mississippi State baseball link - <https://hailstate.com/sports/baseball/roster/david-mershon/10226>



David comes from a baseball family. He is the son of Brian and Tracey Mershon of Taylors, SC, near Greenville. Brian and Tracey have five sons and two daughters, ranging in age from 39 to 15. They also have 13 grandchildren.

David's older brother Joseph played four years of college baseball at the College of Charleston, then just completed a fifth year of college baseball this spring 2024 as a graduate student at Ohio State. Joseph was eligible to play a fifth year because of game cancellations caused by the COVID pandemic.



David Mershon



Joseph Mershon

David and Joseph's father Brian was a college baseball player at the University of Illinois. Brian's three brothers also played college baseball. Wow! They are Andrew³ Mershon descendants, through Andrew's son Timothy⁴.

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 2023. If any contributions were not recorded, we apologize and ask you to notify Treasurer Joan Swearer by phone at (732) 259-3730 or by email at jtswearer@gmail.com.

David & Joanna Beun, Mt. Laurel, NJ

Benj. Mershon Phillips III, Basking Ridge, NJ

John May Kaster, Debary, FL

Vernon Thomson, Jr., Vermont, IL

Karen J. Zickert, Pittsville, WI

Grover & Anne (Mershon) Hughes, Ft. Worth, TX

Carol T. Bailey, Sherman, TX

Jean W. Troop, Columbus, OH

Harry & Miriam Warfield, Cordova, TN

Clare & Sharon Mershon, Portland, OR

Jason Lee Mershon – Soldier, Farmer, Methodist Lay Minister

Jason⁷, Isaac⁶, John⁵, Aaron⁴, Peter³, Henry II, Henri

Becky (Moskowitz) Edmond of Arnold, Maryland, has posted photos from her old family album on the Mershon Association Genealogy Group Facebook page, including this photo of her ancestor, Jason Lee Mershon, taken while he was serving as a Union Civil War soldier.

Mershon Board Member and Civil War reenactor Harrison Hunt found online records showing that Jason served in Company C, 3rd Regiment, Michigan Infantry (Reorganized). Jason enlisted as a Private in September 1864 at Muir, Michigan. The 3rd Regiment served in Tennessee and Alabama, performing picket and scouting duty. A report says: “It was very efficient in driving out numerous bands of guerrillas that infested that portion of the country...”

After the Confederate Army surrender in April 1865, the 3rd Regiment moved to New Orleans, then to San Antonio, Texas. Jason was promoted to Corporal on May 1, 1865, then promoted to Sergeant on July 13, 1865. This photo shows Jason with Sergeant stripes. The Regiment was mustered out at Victoria, Texas on May 25, 1866. They returned to Michigan, being paid and disbanded at Detroit on June 10, 1866.

The 1870 U.S. Census reports Jason as a farm laborer. He married Susan Lydia Houghtaling on Nov. 4, 1870 in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They had two children, Grace Louella⁸ Mershon (1872-1963) and Verne Leo⁸ Mershon (1874-1943). Jason and Susan divorced in 1880.

Jason was remarried in 1892 to Clara Helen Speaker (1855-1949) in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. They had one son, Everett Lee⁸ Mershon, in 1894. Sadly, Everett died six days after birth.

The 1900 Census reports Jason was a Methodist minister living in Hamtramck, Wayne Co., Michigan. The 1910 Census reports Jason as a retired Methodist minister living in Decatur Co., Indiana. Jason died on August 23, 1919 in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Jason and Clara are buried in the Elmwood Cemetery, Cedar Springs, Kent County, Michigan.

We thank Becky Edmond for sharing her old family photos with our Mershon Family Association.

Note: *Superscripts denote Mershon family generation numbers in America.*



Jason Lee Mershon (1844-1919)

Harrison Hunt says: “This image shows him holding a Springfield rifled musket and wearing a Union army sack coat and sky blue trousers.”

We are always looking for articles about the Mershon family for our News Bulletin. Do you have an interesting story about a Mershon descendant or a family related artifact? If so, please write it down 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 it to the return address on this bulletin.

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 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 457 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 corporation 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 your mail or email address changes to Clare Mershon, 3809 NE 136th Place, Portland, OR 97230, or by email at ecmershon@aol.com.** There are currently 1,021 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 Clare Mershon at ecmershon@aol.com.** Over 73% of our mailing list receives our bulletin by email. The advantages are you will receive our bulletin sooner, with color photographs and our Association saves the cost of printing and postage. Our July 2023 bulletin cost \$619.80 to print and mail 272 copies at a cost of \$2.28 each.

4. **Visit our Mershon Family Association website at: mershonfamilyassoc.org** As a measure of its effectiveness, our website received an average of about 280 visits per month during 2023 and the first six months of 2024. Our website is easy to find for Mershon descendants searching the internet for information about their Mershon lineage. We get several new members each month from persons viewing our website. We are grateful to Bill O’Neal for being our webmaster and for building the current version of our website in 2020!

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 gray color polo shirts have a red family coat of arms. Available by mail for \$19.50 each postpaid from David Beun, 226 Meadow Drive, Mt.Laurel, NJ 08054. Contact David by email at dbeun@outlook.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.



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

Return Service Requested

Le Marchand



Mershon Polo Shirts

These gray color polo shirts have a red family coat of arms. They will be available at our August 10th Mershon Annual Meeting for \$16.00 each. They are available by mail for \$19.50 each postpaid from David Beun, 226 Meadow Drive, Mt. Laurel, NJ 08054. Contact David by email at dbeun@outlook.com, or by phone at (609) 417-3323.

Registration Form

2024 Mershon Association Annual Meeting & Reunion

Saturday, August 10, 2024, Beginning at 10 AM

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

Suggested Lodging: Hampton Inn Princeton, 4385 Brunswick Pike (US Route 1), 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 \$159.00 per night plus 14.63% tax. Room rates include a delicious buffet breakfast from 6 AM to 10 AM daily. For GPS directions, use this address: 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=2024-08-08&departuredate=2024-08-11&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 12th. Individual reservations must be cancelled 24 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, August 10th, 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 August 2nd to:

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