



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

June 12, 2025

2025 Mershon Association Annual Meeting and Reunion

Our 2025 Mershon Annual Meeting and Reunion will begin at 10 AM on Saturday morning, July 26th. 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. This is the same location as last year.

Suggested Lodging: Hilton Garden Inn, 1300 Lenox Drive, Lawrenceville, NJ 08648. See the Registration Form with this bulletin for more information.

Introductions: Each family group will have the 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 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 2026.

Show and 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 **Benjamin Franklin** – portrayed by William Ochester of the American Historical Theater in Philadelphia. Benjamin Franklin rose from humble beginnings to be an American success story and an important founding father of our nation who signed the Declaration of Independence and helped write our U.S. Constitution. He was renowned for his wit and wisdom,

Tour of Family History Sites: We will visit the grave site of Henry Mershon II at the Lawrenceville Upper Cemetery where 27 named Mershons are buried and the graveyard at Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville where nine named Mershons are buried.

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

Suggestions Welcome: We welcome your suggestions for our 2025 meeting agenda. Please contact Clare Mershon at ecmershon@aol.com or by phone at (503) 679-7990 (Oregon).

We would like to live stream our meeting on Zoom, but we need a person with the knowledge to do it. If you know of someone who can attend our meeting to do it, please contact Clare Mershon as described above.



William Ochester as Benjamin Franklin

Report on our 2024 Mershon Annual Meeting and Reunion

by Clare & Sharon Mershon, Portland, OR



Front Row, L to R: *Jeanne Mershon, Lorie Mershon, Diana Ricigliano-Crannage, Jeanne Stotler, Clare & Sharon Mershon, Joan Swearer.*

Back Row, L to R: *Rick Hoffmann, Dan Mershon, unidentified, Tim Stotler, Wick Hollingshead, Jeff Mershon, Gwyneth & David Beun, Ken Arnold.*

Missing from photo: *Pam Caffrey, Bill & Mary O'Neal; Susan, Naomi & Esther Arnold.*

The 2024 annual meeting of the **Mershon Family Association** was called to order on Saturday, August 10th, at 10:00 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 online using Zoom. We had an invocation and recited the Pledge of Allegiance. We introduced our Mershon Executive Board members present, then each family group introduced themselves and shared information about their Mershon ancestry.

Treasurer Report: Joan Swearer reported on our finances. (Update: As of 12/31/2024. we had a checking account balance of \$1,220.21, plus two certificates of deposit totaling \$13,725.80).

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. Using a digital projector, Pam showed examples from our genealogy database and answered questions from our meeting audience. Pam is administrator of the Mershon Association Genealogy Group on Facebook (see the Mershon Genealogy article on page 6).

Lawrence Township Archives: Laura Nawrocik of the Mercer County Library Staff visited our meeting to show some Mershon related artifacts from the Lawrence Township Archives. Laura maintains the 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: Joan Swearer displayed photographs and other materials from her Mershon family that has lived for generations in Rahway, NJ. Joan's great-grandfather, William Livingston Mershon, owned and operated the Mershon Company, book publishers in Rahway and New York in the late 1800's and early 1900's. Joan's grandfather, Arthur H. Mershon was one of the founding members of our Association in 1923. Both Arthur and his daughter (Joan's mother), Clara (Mershon) Buroff, served as the President for many years.

Joan has recently moved to Lynchburg, VA, so she is donating these materials to the Mershon collection at the Lawrence Township Archives.

The livestream portion of our meeting paused for lunch at 11:30 am.

Thomas Jefferson: Following box lunches, we resumed our live stream meeting at 1:00 pm with a program by Thomas Jefferson – realistically portrayed by Steven Edenbo of the American Historical Theater in Philadelphia. It was an interesting hour program with some serious thoughts about how democracy can work, even when people disagree. We need to keep communicating with each other! Mr. Edenbo involved children at various times in his program, letting them try games of skill played by children in the 1700’s.

Mr. Edenbo stayed after his presentation to answer questions and pass out cards with his image as Thomas Jefferson. Several people had to leave and our formal meeting ended without electing new officers for 2025. Our existing officers had previously agreed to continue serving if reelected, so they have continued to serve this year.



Vice-President David Beun introduces “Thomas Jefferson”

President: Clare Mershon

Vice-President: David Beun

Treasurer: Joan Swearer

Genealogist: Pam Caffrey

Recording Secretary: Vacant

News Bulletin Editor: Vacant

Executive Board:

Clare Mershon

Dave Beun

Joan Swearer

Pam Caffrey

Harrison Hunt

Elaine Tredinnick

Jeff Mershon

Noel Barton

Daniel Mershon

Lorie Mershon

Following clean-up and putting away the chairs and tables, we visited the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville graveyard where nine named Mershons are buried. Next, we visited the Henry Mershon II grave at the Lawrenceville Cemetery where 27 named Mershons are buried. Lastly, we visited the former Houghton Mershon home, owned by Steve & Cindy Olentine since 2017. Their home was owned for many years by Mershon descendant Marie Louise “Weedie” Stokes until her passing in 2013. Steve and Cindy invited next door neighbor Carol Stokes (Weedie’s daughter), to join us while we were there. Steve & Cindy were gracious hosts in opening their home to us and providing fruit, snacks and beverages. Their home is on part of the land originally owned by Henry Mershon II from about 1700 until his death in 1738.

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.

We thank our son-in-law, Ken Arnold of Grand Rapids, MI, for live streaming our formal meeting and the Thomas Jefferson program on Zoom.

Samuel⁴ Mershon: My Mershon Revolutionary War Patriot

Samuel⁴, Thomas³, Henry II, Henri

by Nancy Mershon Black, Wolfeboro, New Hampshire

Samuel⁴ Mershon (1749-1813) is my 4th great-grandfather. He was the third of seven children of Thomas³ Mershon and Susannah Stockton, born in Princeton, New Jersey. Samuel's older brother, Robert⁴, and his younger brother, William⁴, were also revolutionary patriots in the Middlesex County, NJ militia. Thomas³ (1710-1790) is also recognized as a Patriot, "Carting for Quartermaster at Princeton, NJ" as per *Mershon Patriots*, 1947. Through documenting my lineage through Samuel, I joined the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR).

Samuel served in the Middlesex County Militia under the leadership of Captain Aaron Longstreet. According to the book *Revolutionary Princeton 1774-1783*, 2020, by William Kidder, Captain Longstreet's company engaged the British forces during the American victory at the Battle of Princeton on January 3, 1777. The final action of that conflict occurred not on the battlefield but at Nassau Hall, where disorganized mobs of British soldiers, having suffered a battlefield defeat, traveled north and entered Nassau Hall, knocking out glass windowpanes and stationing themselves to repel the approaching militia forces. The militia fired artillery at the enemy positioned in Nassau Hall. A cannonball came through a Prayer Hall window and destroyed a portrait of King George II. By one local tradition, James Moore and his local militia company burst open the door to Nassau Hall and demanded the British surrender, which they did. But Moore was not a captain yet, so Captain Longstreet and his company stepped forward and secured the British prisoners.

After the Battle of Princeton, Samuel's company served in other areas of central New Jersey and eventually returned to Princeton, where he and his company were stationed to take charge of the military magazine, stores, and prisoners for the remainder of the War for Independence.

"Captain Longstreet had dismissed his company for three days shortly after the battle [of Princeton] on January 3 and instructed them to join him at Cranbury [NJ]. There, they became employed scouting about the lines for some time and then marched to Monmouth Courthouse. They remained for a few days and then went to Middletown, and the refugee loyalists left when they came. They then went to Shrewsbury and back to Monmouth Courthouse, where they remained until the goods taken from the British could be sent on to Burlington. Then they returned to Princeton by way of Cranbury and were stationed there to take charge of the military magazine, stores, and prisoners.

During the nearly six months the British occupied New Brunswick, there was constant anxiety about the movements Howe might take. When General Sullivan commanded at Princeton, Longstreet's company was frequently called out for duty, along the Millstone River toward Somerset Courthouse and in the region north and east of Princeton, to keep an eye on any British movements. When serving in the town, they received prisoners taken in the Forage War around New Brunswick and along the seacoast of Monmouth and Burlington Counties. ...

Many changes in leadership took place in New Jersey militia regiments during the first months of 1777. Captain Longstreet resigned to become a commissary of stores procurement."¹

1. William L. Kidder, *Revolutionary Princeton 1774-1783: The Biography of an American Town in the Heart of a Civil War*, 2020.

In an 1878 publication on the history of Princeton, New Jersey, the Princeton Cemetery, dating back to 1757, was described by author John Hageman as "The Westminster Abby of the United States" since so many prominent citizens are buried here.

Samuel's headstone is engraved with his name and that of his two wives, Mary (Schenk) and Susan (Height). Samuel's original headstone is immediately to the right of the new stone, and where Samuel is buried. Susan's original headstone is immediately to the left, and that would make us assume that his first wife, Mary, is buried where the new group headstone was fixed, as she was the first to pass. Samuel's parents' grave site is immediately to the right of Samuel's original headstone. We assume his mother, Susanna (Stockton) Mershon, is buried between her son and her husband, Thomas.



Cousins from New Hampshire, Maine and New Jersey came to the Princeton Cemetery to honor their Patriot, Samuel Mershon. Six of them are now members of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

On May 25, 2024, the Princeton Chapter Daughters of the American Revolution, as part of their America250 project, placed a bronze marker at Samuel's grave to honor his service in the American Revolution.

L to R: *Lauren Kostue Potts, Michael Kostue, Arlene Mershon Hutnik, Elizabeth Mershon Greber, Cynthia Mershon Molesworth, Nancy Mershon Black, Grace Calandra, Christine Greber Calandra and Nicole Black. Not pictured: Jeff Mershon*

Nine of Samuel Mershon's direct bloodline relatives were present that day.

In 2025, our country will celebrate the Semiquincentennial – its 250th birthday. Both male and female Mershon family members provided aid or service during the American Revolution to achieve our independence. Now is a historically momentous time to find your Mershon Patriot and honor their participation in the founding of our country. Please consider joining the Sons of the American Revolution (www.SAR.org) or the Daughters of the American Revolution (www.DAR.org). Be sure to share our heroic and patriotic Mershon stories with your family.



Close-up of DAR Marker

Notes:

1. *The author wishes to credit her cousin Elizabeth Mershon Gerber and the Princeton NJ Chapter DAR for their research. They were of great help.*
2. *Superscripts with names refer to Mershon family generation numbers in America.*

We are always looking for articles about our Mershon family for our News Bulletin. Do you have an interesting story about a Mershon descendant or a family related artifact? Is 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.

Our Mershon genealogy database now includes records for over **36,000 individuals**, tracing back to **1685**! If you'd like to know what's documented about your Mershon family line—or if you have updates to share—please reach out to **Pam**.

When submitting updates, be sure to include as much detail as possible: **names, birth dates, marriage dates, death dates**, and the **locations** where these events took place.

Our **Mershon Association Genealogy Group** on Facebook, created and moderated by Pam, has grown to **487 members** and continues to be a vibrant hub for family connections and discoveries. If you haven't joined yet, we encourage you to check it out! To keep the group focused and meaningful, new members are asked to answer a few brief questions before joining. If you're inviting someone, please ensure they have **Mershon ancestry** or are **related by marriage** to a Mershon.

Please note: Several membership requests are currently listed as “pending” because the questions haven't been answered—please help us keep things moving by reminding any invitees to complete this step.

As a reminder, for privacy reasons, our Genealogist does **not release information on living individuals** outside your immediate family (parents, grandparents, siblings, children, spouses) unless those individuals are **over 110 years old** or have given **written consent**. This standard aligns with the guidelines followed by Ancestry.com and other major genealogy platforms.

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 donation checks to the “Mershon Association.” Mail to our Treasurer at her new address: Joan Swearer, 1513 Lockewood, Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24502. Thank you!

2. **Please send U.S. 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 1,022 persons 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.** The advantages are you will receive our bulletin sooner, with color photographs and our Association saves the cost of printing and postage. Our July 2024 bulletin cost \$618.31 to print and mail 260 copies at a cost of \$2.38 each.

4. **Visit our Mershon Family Association website at: mershonfamilyassoc.org** For the first five months of 2025, our website has received an average of about 50 visitors per month making over 170 separate views. We get several news members each month from persons viewing our website. We thank Bill O'Neal of Ewing, NJ, for being our webmaster and for building the current version of our website!

Help Needed!

Our **News Bulletin Editor** and **Recording Secretary** officer positions have been vacant for several years. Please consider if you can help our Association in these areas. These jobs would help our entire family organization to work more smoothly! Contact Clare Mershon if you are interested in helping our Association in these areas. See Clare's contact information above.

Mershon Family Store

The following Mershon genealogy books and the Mershon Family Coat of Arms are available from Mershon Association Treasurer Joan Swearer, 1513 Lockwood Drive, Lynchburg, VA 24502. Contact Joan by email at jtswearer@gmail.com, or by phone at (732) 259-3730.

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 copy of the Mershon family coat of arms 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 photos on pages 2&3. Available at our annual meeting for \$16.00 each, or 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 three 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

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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, special programs by outside presenters, ancestry.com subscription for our Genealogist and maintaining our Mershon Association website.

Listed below with our appreciation are our contributors during 2024. If any contributions were not recorded, we apologize and ask you to notify our Treasurer Joan Swearer by phone at (732) 259-3730 or by email at jtswearer@gmail.com.

David & Joanna Beun, Mt. Laurel, NJ

John May Kaster, Debary, FL

Vernon Thomson, Jr., Vermont, IL

Karen J. Zickert, Pittsville, WI

Martha Ford, Greenville, IL

Sara M. Spragens, Lexington, KY

Nancy Mershon Black, Wolfeboro, NH

Jeff Mershon, Monroe Township, NJ

Arlene Mershon Hutnik, Jonesport, ME

Clare & Sharon Mershon, Portland, OR

Registration Form

2025 Mershon Association Annual Meeting & Reunion

Saturday, July 26, 2025, 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: Hilton Garden Inn Princeton Lawrenceville, 1300 Lenox Drive, Lawrenceville, NJ 08540, telephone (609) 895-9200. Lenox Drive intersects with Princeton Pike, close to I-295. **Make your room reservation online to get the best room rates.** Google: "Hotels near Lawrenceville, NJ." As of June 11th, the online room rate directly from Hilton was \$134. per night for a king bed room. A room rate of \$112. per night was available through Trivago Deals. Breakfast is available at the hotel restaurant, but it is not included in the room rate.

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

Email _____

Names of other persons in your party:

Children and their ages: _____

Lunch Reservations for our Annual Meeting on Saturday, July 26th, at the Mercer County Library:
(Vegetarian selections are 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 19th to:

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