

Mershon News Bulletin

THE ASSOCIATION OF THE DESCENDANTS OF HENRY MERSHON

ORGANIZED AT TRENTON, NEW JERSEY, SEPTEMBER 8th, 1923

Meets Annually in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, on the Saturday closest to September 20th.

Mershon Name

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

January, 2006

Officers 2006

President
Vice President
Treasurer
Recording Secretary
Beverly Mershon, Corresponding Secretary -- Wichita, Kansas
Editor—*at the discretion of the president*
Lallie Benkowski, Parliamentarian -- Albany, Georgia
Bill Trott, Special Collator of Genealogy -- Cantonment, Florida
E. Clare Mershon, Member at Large -- Portland, Oregon
Dr. James C. Mershon - Immediate Past President

A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT

During 2005, we added many new members to our roll. We lament those who passed on. We also feel the loss for those whom we have lost because of failure to update addresses and email addresses. Our corresponding secretary has noted a large increase in communications from interested members. This year's turnout for the annual meeting (45+) was large for recent times and included many first timers. Work on our repository saw a leap forward. The complete minutes (soon to be on-line) disclose the work proposed by Noel Barton. Noel is a descendant of Nathaniel and Rebekah (Mershon) FitzRandolph and a retired staff member of the Family History Department of the Latter Day Saints (LDS) Church in Salt Lake City, UT. The www.henrymershon.com website is to experience updating by Bill Trott.

Donations for 2005 reached a record high. We do not collect dues. We continue to solicit your help to fund newsletters, gifts to our host church, subsidizing meetings, and continued work on our archives, etc. The first stage to organize and copy our data is underway. The next stage will be to digitize original documents and photos. We are grateful to our donors. **Known contributors for 2005:** Donald H. Mershon, Barbara Myers, Wilma Bastian, Gayle Murphy, Lallie Benkoski, Jeffrey Graves, Carol Bevier, Harriet Hunter, Arlene Adams, Elizabeth Mershon, Mary Blackmar Shelden, Patricia Bond, Robert J. Mershon, Fred & Grace McClesky, Dean & Ardean Banker, Edward B. Wickes, Bonnie Ahrens, Robert and Liz Mershon Plunk, Imogene Cavallaro, Marion Rizzo, Jerry Mershon, Garrison G. Card, Georgia A. O'Hare, John Kaster, Vernon C. Thomson, Jr., Gail & Mona Mershon, Elaine Tredinnick, Lallie Benkoski, Jane A. Hutton, Beverly Smith, Rebecca Riggins, Thomas

Murphy, Marion McGlohan, Jeanne Mershon, Jean Marie Warpus, Janet R. Hemboldt, Bonnie Ahrens, Jim and Beverly Mershon (double listing means multiple donations)

The **situation is grave** when I report that three long-term officers are retiring this year—**president, treasurer, and recording secretary**. For details see the 2005 minutes below. This is an opportunity for you serve and have the aid of several “seasoned” members. The terms end on January 1, 2006. When it strikes you that, “Hey, I can do that,” please notify me (packardjimbev@cox.net), or someone on the board. In addition, you may make suggestions; it is far more preferable that you make prior contact with the individual(s). I discussed my exit as president in the May 2005 News Bulletin.

James C. Mershon



Granite Field Boulder marking the grave of Henry Mershon in the cemetery at Lawrenceville (formerly Maidenhead), N.J. 5.5 ft. high, 3.75 ft. wide, 2 ft. thick. Weighing 4.5 tons, bearing the inscription “Here Lyeth Henry Mershon, who departeth this life it 20th Sept. 1738”

Minutes for the 2005 Mershon Annual Meeting
Lawrenceville, New Jersey
24 September 2005



2005 picture taken at Weedie Stoke's house, on the land of Henry² and Houghton³.

Call to Order: President Dr. Jim Mershon called our 2005 Annual Meeting to order at 9:45 AM in the Fellowship Hall of the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, 2688 Main Street, Lawrenceville, NJ. About 45 persons attended. Lallie Benkoski led us in an Invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance.

Treasurer Report: Diana Ricigliano reported a current balance of \$5,107.31 on August 31, 2005 plus a Certificate of Deposit worth \$12,832.90 as of August 26, 2005. There is about \$900 in bills pending payment. We passed a basket for donations to the Association. (*Total donations for 2005 are \$2400!*)

Election of Officers for 2006: Dr. Mershon reported on the slate of officer nominations proposed by the Executive Committee for next year and asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, the slate was voted upon:

President: John Kaster has been experiencing health problems and it has recently become apparent that he will not be a candidate for re-nomination.

Treasurer: Elaine Tredinnick: Elaine Tredinnick agreed to serve if elected, replacing Diana Ricigliano at the end of 2005 (*Subsequently Elaine declined the position because her college studies will be more time-consuming than she anticipated.*)

Corresponding Secretary: Beverly Mershon

Member at Large: Clare Mershon

Parliamentarian: Lallie Benkoski

Newsletter Editor: Dr. Jim Mershon

Genealogist: Bill Trott

Recording Secretary: Nan Corcoran is not present this year. (*Nan recently decided not to accept the nomination; she will not be able to attend in 2006 and her new residence is more than 300 miles from Lawrenceville.*)

PROGRAMS

Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church Cemetery: Following lunch, Janet Fearon made an interesting presentation on the history of the Church cemetery. Janet is the wife of Dana Fearon, former Church pastor for 40 years. The original Church Meeting House was built in 1713. The first burials in the Church cemetery were two sisters in 1736. There are 212 graves around the Church, including nine Mershons. The last Church Cemetery burial was in 1923. Some grave markers were moved in 1954 to make room for construction of the Church Fellowship Hall. *Mrs. Fearon provided a list of interred Mershons.* The stone marking Henry^{IV}, and his wife Sarah, is one that needs repairs. Janet shared that in the 1720's and 1730s a theological split developed in the Presbyterian Church between "old side" and "new side" believers. At Maidenhead (now Lawrenceville), the "new side" believers outnumbered the "old side" believers. The "old side" believers took a more conservative view of religion. Because of this division, the "old side" believers left the original church and obtained land to build a new church where the Lawrenceville Upper Cemetery is now located on the Lawrenceville-Princeton Road, about ½ mile towards Princeton from the Church. Henry Mershon II was apparently an "old side" believer, because in 1738 his was the first burial in what we now know as the Upper Cemetery. The Presbyterian Church eventually reconciled. A new church was never built at the Upper Cemetery location. A separate Cemetery Association, not connected to the Church, currently operates the Upper Cemetery. There are 27 Mershons buried in this Cemetery.

Grand Tour: At 2 PM, we departed the Church for a tour of former Mershon land holdings around Lawrenceville. Guided by Bill O'Neal, we carpooled to the **Andrew Mershon³** Tavern Site on Bear Tavern Road, Weedie Stokes' home on the Lawrenceville-Princeton Road (former **Houghton Mershon³** home), Princessville Tavern Site on Princeton Pike Road, and the former **Peter Mershon³** and **Henry Mershon³** lands that are now residential neighborhoods between Lawrenceville and Trenton. **Henry Mershon²** purchased the land in 1708. Bill described Revolutionary War history about General Washington versus General Cornwallis at the site of the juncture of the Assumpink and Shabakunk Creeks. The tour ended after 5 PM.

Dinner and Evening Meeting: Following dinner Lallie Benkoski gave an inspired portrayal of Miss Sarah Mershon of Cranbury, NJ, the subject of a circa 1817 portrait by Micah Williams. The National Gallery of Art in Washington D.C. owns the Miss Sarah Mershon picture. Over the years, many cities throughout the United States have enjoyed seeing it on exhibit. A standing ovation recognized Jim and Beverly Mershon for their five years of service to our Association. Noel Barton reported on his recommendations for preserving our family records stored in the Mershon Room at the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church (*see the full minutes*).

Recorded and submitted by Clare Mershon, acting recording secretary (*italics by editor*)



Bev, our corresponding secretary, at work.



Bill O'Neal, with the help of young Bill, showing us the confluence of the Assunpink and Shabakunk creeks.

MORE NEWS FROM THE PRESIDENT

A tour on Friday afternoon included **Andrew's Tavern** with a guided tour by present owner Elmer Smith. Mr. Smith is selling the property and this tour was possibly our last. Mr. Smith is exceptionally knowledgeable about our Mershon history. Clare Mershon had the foresight to have a professional video recording made. Mr. Smith narrates and Clare produced and edited the film. The 43-minute recording is available on VHS and DVD formats for **\$20, including postage**. Contact Clare at ECMershon@aol.com or write Clare Mershon, 3809 NE 136th Place, Portland, OR 97230-2720 or telephone (503) 252-7139.

A copy of Janet Fearon's talk, "BURYING GROUNDS AT THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF LAWRENCEVILLE" is available by email (packardjimbev@cox.net) or by sending a SASE to Jim Mershon, 7617 Donegal Ln, Wichita, KS 67206.

The Grand Tour on Saturday was a great success! I want to express thanks to several folks. **Clare Mershon** was of singular help! He had input to the overall planning, for arranging vans, for being acting Recording Secretary, and for planning the Friday tours to Princeton and Andrew's Tavern. Future generations will value his successful effort to arrange for the production of a video/DVD of the tour through Andrews Tavern. We also extend our thanks to **Weedie Stokes** for graciously hosting tours of her house. This property is of Mershon interest because Henry² and Houghton³ owned it, and Houghton probably built the original part of the house. **Bill and Lauren O'Neal** are new members. They live in Lawrenceville and show enthusiasm for the Association. Lauren represents the limb formed by the union of Hannah Mershon (Andrew³, Hannah⁴) and John Reeder. (This is also Weedie's branch.) I urge you to look at their website <http://billyandlaurenoneal.home.att.net/>. Bill made the maps for the tour, provided pertinent Mershon history, and led us to the lands of Henry³ and Peter³. We quit our conveyances and walked on the lands of these ancestors. We visited the junction of the Assunpink and Shabakunk creeks. These were exciting experiences!

Every year we lose members due to wrong addresses. Please update Beverly Mershon, our corresponding secretary, at bsmershon@aol.com with changes of mailing and/or email addresses. Also, please notify Beverly if you can supply correct addresses for any "lost" members.

We need help! Is there anyone who is able and willing to take on the project to help us achieve a 501-C status? If so, please contact us. Our contributions could escalate with this provision.

Reminder, please send contributions to Beverly Mershon, 7617 Donegal Lane, Wichita, KS 67206.

Please act on these requests: update your addresses, relay your interest in becoming an officer, and tell us if you can help us achieve a 501-C status. We anticipate seeing you at the **2006 reunion the weekend of September 22** watch for details.

Jim Mershon, President 2000-2005

MERSHON PUBLICATIONS

There are five books available. These are:

Henry Mershon III and His Descendants
Andrew Mershon and His Descendants
Thomas Mershon and His Descendants
Peter Mershon and His Descendants and the Daughters of Henry II
Houghton Mershon and His Descendants

Each of the Mershon books can be purchased from the Mershon Association for the price of \$8.00 per book, or \$35.00 for the entire set. Contact William H. Trott, 2800 Highway 297A, Cantonment, FL 32533, and Phone: (850) 479-9402, E-mail: whtrott@aol.com



Portrait of Sarah Mershon



J. Mershon, President
7617 Donegal Ln
Wichita, KS 67216

Marriages, Births and Deaths
August 31, 2004 through August 31, 2005

(Please inform us, of others at bsmershon@aol.com)

Military Service

Mershon Gardner: serving in the Navy, son of Dan Mershon Gardner from Santa Rosa, CA

Missionaries

Jeanne McGinnis & husband Thad: United Methodist missionaries for 15 years (2005). They have been in Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, Nigeria, and now Costa Rica. They have two children, **Leah**, 18 and **Don**, 14

Births

Hayden Quinn Center, born Mar 15, 2005 to **Amy Katherine & Tim Center**, grandfather **Robert Owen**

Elizabeth Ann Pontious, born 5/15/2005 to **David and Vicki Pontious**, grandfather: **Kenneth McCone**

Deaths

Harriet Anne Owen, 6/9/2005, Winter Haven FL, sister of **Robert Owen**

Dudley J Hill, 9/28/2004 husband of **Cathryn**, Lancaster, PA

Marjorie Oehlerking of Denver CO

Beatrice E S Young of Vineland NJ

William M Noggle of Sharon, GA

Persis Adams Johnson, daughter of **Lucille Mershon Adams** died May 1999

Leighton Hine of Columbus OH

John L. Carter, Sr. & Sarah G Carter of Honey Brook, PA

Edna Nearing, 2010 Iowa Circle, Green River, WY 82935

John Jett Mershon, deceased 6/5/2004

Bertha Wilmina Mershon West, deceased April 4, 2005 age 101.

Anna Louise Wagner, died April 20, 2004 in Knoxville, Campbell, TN

Charles Samuel "Sam" Cathcart, died May 24, 2004, age 68 of McDonough, GA

Anna Louise Wagner, born Sept. 2, 1941 in Cincinnati, OH married to **Gerald P. Wagner** died April 20, 2004 in Knoxville, Campbell, TN and buried Gate of Heaven Cemetery, Montgomery, OH