



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)

July, 2007

The 2007 Annual Meeting of the Descendants of Henry Mershon will start at 9 am on Saturday, September 29, at the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, 2688 Main Street, Lawrenceville, NJ. This is the site on which our ancestors helped organize and build the first Presbyterian Church in Maidenhead (now Lawrenceville). Information about our business items, outstanding special programs, meals, banquet, and lodging is below. Please find registration materials on the final page.

A full copy of our 2007 Annual Meeting agenda will be on-line at www.mershonassoc.com . Below is our preliminary agenda:

Business Items

1. Approve 2006 Meeting Minutes (read on-line at www.mershonassoc.com)
2. Treasurer Report
3. Executive Board Report
4. Present proposed Slate of Nominations for 2008 Officers and open the floor for nominations.
5. Election of 2008 Officers
6. Discuss and vote on Proposed Constitution and By-Law Amendments (see inserted notice).

Special Programs

Morning Program: Della Garrabrant will present our morning program describing the historic Princessville Tavern on Princeton Pike (now Princeton Road) that was owned and operated by her Mershon ancestors. This Tavern was last operated by Della's great-grandmother, Susan (Mershon) Pierson (1840-1918). Susan Pierson was a daughter of William Webster Mershon, who purchased the Inn in 1837. See Houghton Mershon and his Descendants by Grace Lucile Mershon, pages 19-21. Della grew up in Lawrence Township and has photos and memories of the Tavern building before it burned in the 1940's. We hope to drive by the site on our afternoon tour.

Afternoon Program: Our afternoon program will be a guided bus tour of the Second Battle of Trenton and the Princeton Battlefield. We will retrace the historic events that occurred on January 2-3, 1777 when British General Cornwallis led his British Army and German Hessians on a one-day march from Princeton through Maidenhead (now Lawrenceville) to attack General Washington and his American Army at Trenton. Skirmish actions by the American Army on the Trenton-Princeton Road delayed the British Army in reaching Trenton until dusk on January 2. Rather than face a numerically superior force in battle the next morning, General Washington had his army quietly pull out of their positions at midnight and make a night march by back roads to surprise rear units of the British Army the next morning at Princeton. The American victories at Trenton and Princeton caused the British to abandon all of their outposts in West Jersey and led the French to support openly the American Cause. French support was an important factor leading to ultimate American victory in the Revolution.

Our 2007 guided bus tour is a follow-up to our 2006 bus tour that followed events in the First Battle of Trenton. We will begin our tour at 1 pm at the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church parking lot and finish at 5 pm with our return to the Church. Our tour guide will be David Emerson of "History on the Hoof." David is the entertaining guide who led our 2006 tour.

Evening Program—to be announced

Notice of Proposed Constitution and By-Law Amendments Association of the Descendants of Henry Mershon

Our Executive Board has discussed in recent years amending our Constitution and By-Laws to allow our Annual Meeting be held in places other than Lawrenceville, NJ, and on dates other than the Saturday closest to September 20.

A copy of the original and proposed changes is enclosed. You can read complete copies of our existing Mershon Association Constitution and By-Laws online at www.mershonassn.com.

MERSHON STORE

Books

1. Henry Mershon III and His Descendants
2. Andrew Mershon and His Descendants
3. Thomas Mershon and His Descendants and Daughters of Henry II
4. Peter Mershon and His Descendants
5. Houghton Mershon and His Descendants
6. Mershon Patriots

Each of the six books can be purchased for \$8.00 per book, or \$40 for the set (based on current availability). Contact Bill Trott at WHTROTT@AOL.COM or write to him at 2800 Highway 297A, Cantonment, FL 32533-7639.

Videos/ CD's

1. **“Video Tour of the Andrew Mershon Tavern Site”**—narrated by Elmer Smith, the longtime owner who carefully did the restoration and researched the history of the former Colonial Tavern. This production was done professionally in 2005. Owning this 43 minute DVD/Video is valuable because of references to Mershon's and because of the rich insights of colonial life at the time our ancestors lived in New Jersey. Mr. Smith sold the old Tavern in 2006. This is something you will want to own for yourself and use as gifts! It is available in DVD or VHS format for \$20. postpaid from Clare Mershon. Write Clare at 3809 NE 136th Place, Portland, OR 97230-2720 or email him at ECMershon@aol.com for more information.

2. **New for 2007 - Documents and Photos from the Mershon Association Archives-** There are two CD's available. One CD contains most of our historic documents including old wills and parchment papers referred to by Grace Lucille Mershon in her Mershon books. A second CD contains most of the collected photographs that are in our

archives. Both CD's are available for \$20. each postpaid and may be ordered from Noel Barton. Write Noel at 410 N. Main St., Farmington, Utah 84025 or email him at nrbarton13@yahoo.com for more information. The information is instructive and valuable for research

3. **New DVD available beginning August 1, 2007- “Mershon Family History in New Jersey”**- In September 2006 we engaged a professional videographer to record a video tour of the Lawrenceville (Upper) Cemetery; Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville with Mershon Room; Nassau Hall and FitzRandolph Gate at Princeton University; and the Marie Louise “Weedie” Stokes house. The oldest part of Weedie's house was the ca. 1740 home of Houghton Mershon. The principle video narrators are Noel Barton, Dr. Jim Mershon, Weedie Stokes, and Grant Simmons. Trish Baker, Senior Writer for television programs and spouse of Grant Simmons directed the video shooting. You can order this new 45 minute DVD for \$25 postpaid from Clare Mershon. Write Clare at 3809 NE 136th Place, Portland, OR 97230-2720 or email him at ECMershon@aol.com for more information. **This video complements our popular 2005 “Video Tour of the Andrew Mershon Tavern Site.” This is an important addition to our Mershon archives. The featured sites are all significant parts of our legacy. The video recordings are superb and the narrations offer wonderful insights to our heritage.**



4. **New DVD available September 29- “Mershon Family Bibles”**; compiled by Noel Barton, this contains records from 18 family Bibles in our family archives. Noel scanned actual Bible records, others are photocopies of Bible records, and some are transcriptions of Bible records. They cover years from 1705-1962. This data is not only valuable for research but is fun to see! Buy in Lawrenceville on September 29, or for \$20 each, postpaid, a CD may be ordered from Noel Barton. Write Noel at 410 N. Main St., Farmington, Utah 84025 or email him at nrbarton13@yahoo.com for more information. The information is instructive and valuable for research.

5. Mershon Polo Shirt

This attractive shirt is available in small, medium, large, and extra large sizes. The logo reads "The Mershons—An American Family Since 1685." The cost for each shirt is \$16.00. These will make great gifts! These will be available for purchase in Lawrenceville on September 29, 2007.



NOTE: WE PAY POSTAGE, BUT WE WILL NOT TURN DOWN A DONATION TO HELP WITH THE MAILING COSTS!

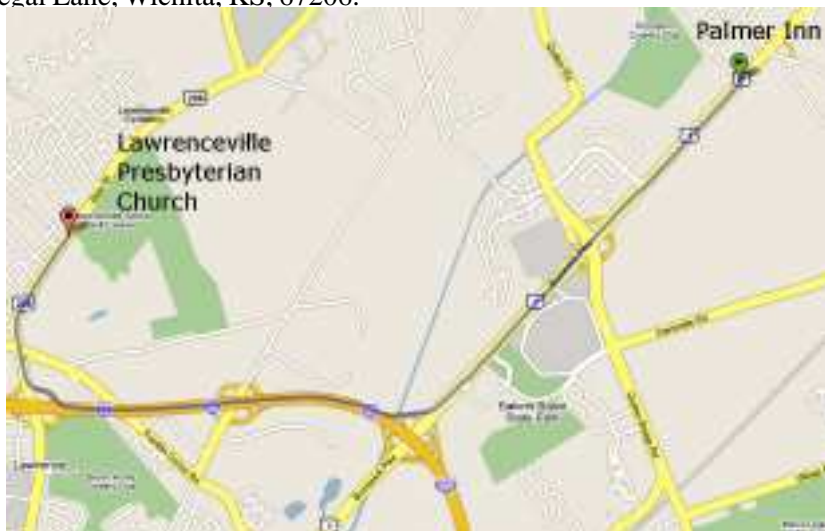
CONTRIBUTIONS

For 2006, our Treasurer reported contributions as follows:

Reunion Receipts	\$1,185.30
Other contributions	\$1,347.47
Total	\$2,532.77

We use the income to defray annual meeting expenses, pay guest speakers, donations, etc. Sometimes we subsidize other costs in order to make our activities more affordable; these include a small portion of the costs of banquets and tours. We have made great strides in the past three years in our efforts to preserve our archives and make them available to our family members on-line, in the form of DVD's, books, etc. This is an ongoing process and entails more work and more expense. This requires the volunteer cooperation of many people to do the work and the contributions of dollars from many of you.

Please send your donations to our Corresponding Secretary, Beverly Mershon, 7617 Donegal Lane, Wichita, KS, 67206.



CHAPTER GATHERINGS

OREGON

Sunday, August 19, 2007, 1 PM to 4 PM at Dodge Park, where Lusted Road crosses the Sandy River, several miles north of Sandy, OR. For Map Quest information, enter the address across the road, 10991 SE Lusted Road, Sandy, OR 97055 Bring: Food, Drink, Eating Utensils, Lawn Chairs, Games for Kids, Old Family Photographs, and Memorabilia. Questions or Suggestions: Call Clare Mershon at (503) 252-7139 or email ECMershon@aol.com

SOUTHERN chapter is looking at a target date of the first week in May 2008, for a reunion in San Antonio, TX. Watch your mail or view our two websites (see below).

REMINDERS

1. Send change of address information to our corresponding secretary, Beverly Mershon, 7617 Donegal Ln, Wichita, KS 67206-1316, or email to Bsmershon@aol.com.
2. If you have Internet access, but are not receiving this Bulletin by email, please send your email address to Bsmershon@aol.com so we can email this Bulletin to you.
3. Visit our two websites: www.henrymershon.com and www.mershonassoc.com
4. Other links include: <http://genforum.genealogy.com/mershon/> is a Mershon family genealogy forum. <http://www.thelhs.org/> access the Lawrenceville Historical Society.

REGISTRATION FOR 2007 REUNION

ACCOMMODATIONS

Our host hotel is the Clarion Palmer Inn. The cost is \$92.99/night. Breakfast is included in the room rate. The deadline for reserving these rooms is September 10. Please call the hotel at 609-716-9100 to reserve your room and obtain more info, or write to 3499 US Highway One South, Princeton, NJ 08540. The registration form and a map will be in the July News Bulletin. (See attached map)

Name _____ Phone _____
 Address _____ Email _____

Please check here if you have made reservations at the Palmer Inn _____
(Please fill out completely. Be sure to indicate the number of people attending lunch, dinner, and the tours, and return to me by September 10).

Names addresses of other persons in your party:

Box Lunch @ Lawrenceville Church

Lunch
 ___ Adults @ \$8.00 ea. = \$ _____
 ___ Children under 16 @ \$6.00 ea. = \$ _____
 ___ Children under 10 @ \$4.00 ea. = \$ _____

Dinner
 ___ Adults @ \$15.95 ea. = \$ _____
 ___ Children under 16 @ \$9.95 ea. = \$ _____
 ___ Children under 10 @ \$5.95 ea. = \$ _____

Guided Bus Tour of the Second Battle of Trenton and the Princeton Battlefield This is a guided tour in the comfort of a 46-passenger air-conditioned bus.

___ Adults @ \$12.00 ea. = \$ _____ ___ Children under 12 @ \$7.00 ea. = \$ _____

TOTAL = \$ _____

Please return with checks for meals and the tour to: Dr. James C. Mershon 7617 Donegal Lane Wichita, KS 67206



J. Mershon, President
7617 Donegal Ln
Wichita, KS 67206

Notice of Proposed Constitution and By-Law Amendments
Association of the Descendants of Henry Mershon

Our Executive Board has discussed in recent years amending our Constitution and By-Laws to allow our Annual Meeting be held in places other than Lawrenceville, NJ, and on dates other than the Saturday closest to September 20. You can read complete copies of our existing Mershon Association Constitution and By-Laws online at www.mershonassn.com.

The reason for considering other locations for our Annual Meeting is to attract Mershon descendants in parts of our country far removed from Lawrenceville, NJ. The reason for considering a date change is to have the flexibility to schedule our Annual Meeting during school summer vacations when it would be easier for families with school age children to attend our Meetings.

As a practical matter, in 2006 and again in 2007, the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville Fellowship Hall has been committed by the Church to a Jewish Congregation observing Yom Kippur on the Saturday closest to September 20. Therefore, we have adjusted our Annual Meeting date to fit the available dates on the Church calendar. Flexibility to change the date might also allow us to accommodate young families with children

Alternative locations for our Annual Meeting could be places with significant Mershon history such as Louisville or Lexington, KY; Mershon, GA; Fairhope, AL; Columbus, OH; Saginaw, MI; and Portland, OR. Another suggestion is to combine a Mershon Annual Meeting with a genealogical class at the LDS Family History Center in Salt Lake City, UT. Of course, our earliest Mershon history is around Lawrenceville and our Mershon Archives are housed at the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, so we will continue to have Mershon Reunions at Lawrenceville on a regular basis. If these amendments are adopted, a Planning Committee appointed by the President will be in charge of selecting locations for the Annual Meeting.

On a separate subject, on September 29, 2006 our Executive Board approved the following motion: "The Mershon Association Executive Board has considered and decided that legally adopted minor children shall be considered as family members and Mershon descendants" (unanimous vote). Therefore, we propose amending our Constitution to include adopted members of our Mershon family. The details of making this change will be done in accordance with accepted genealogic practices.

Our Constitution and By-laws say "...no amendment shall be considered or adopted...unless a written notice containing the complete text of the article to which the proposed amendment shall relate, and the complete text of the Article, as it would be if the proposed amendment were adopted, shall be mailed to each member of the Association not less than thirty (30) days prior to the said annual meeting." Accordingly, the following proposed revisions will be considered and voted on at our September 29, 2007 Annual Meeting.

Existing Constitution, Article II
Purposes of Association

The purposes of this corporation shall be:

To honor the name and perpetuate the memory of Henry Mershon, the Huguenot refugee, who with his father Henri Marchand, fled the persecution of bigotry in France, and who settled in Maidenhead, now Lawrenceville, in the State of New Jersey, and during his lifetime stood openly, consistently and boldly for liberty, law, public order, thrift, private rights and fidelity to God.

To associate together in the bonds of mutual fellowship, fraternity and good citizenship the descendants of said Henry Mershon together with those who are related to such descendants by marriage.

To collect and compile, with a view to eventual publication, genealogical data pertaining to the ancestors and descendants of said Henry Mershon.

To meet not less frequently than once each year in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, where the body of Henry Mershon now rests; and there by social contacts, appropriate programs and the study of genealogical records increase and intensify the spirit of fraternalism among his descendants.

To spread abroad by the influence of word, example and deed, a spirit of loyalty to the noble principles exemplified in Henry Mershon, and which principles are the foundation of our Christian civilization.

Proposed Constitution Amendments, Article II
Purposes of Association

The purposes of this corporation shall be:

To honor the name and perpetuate the memory of Henry Mershon, the Huguenot refugee, who with his father Henri Marchand, fled the persecution of bigotry in France, and who settled in Maidenhead, now Lawrenceville, in the State of New Jersey, and during his lifetime stood openly, consistently and boldly for liberty, law, public order, thrift, private rights and fidelity to God.

To associate together in the bonds of mutual fellowship, fraternity and good citizenship the descendants of said Henry Mershon together with those who are related to such descendants by marriage **or adoption**.

To collect and compile, with a view to eventual publication, genealogical data pertaining to the ancestors and descendants of said Henry Mershon.

To meet not less frequently than once each year in **places significant to Mershon family history**; and there, by social contacts, appropriate programs and the study of genealogical records increase and intensify the spirit of fraternalism among **Mershon** descendants.

To spread abroad by the influence of word, example and deed, a spirit of loyalty to the noble principles exemplified in Henry Mershon, and which principles are the foundation of our Christian civilization.

(Note: The proposed Constitution amendments are highlighted in gray above)

Existing By-Law, Article 7 **Meetings**

Section 1: The regular meeting of the Association shall be held annually in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, on the Saturday which shall be nearest to September 20 of the current year.

Section 2: The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the President of the corporation; although by written request of not less than three (3) members and not less than upon ten (10) days notice, the President shall call a special meeting.

Section 3: The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once a year upon the call of the Chairman.

Proposed By-Law Amendment, Article 7 **Meetings**

Section 1: **The regular meeting of the Association shall be held annually.**

Section 2: The Executive Board shall meet at the call of the President of the corporation; although by written request of not less than three (3) members and not less than upon ten (10) days notice, the President shall call a special meeting.

Section 3: The Board of Trustees shall meet at least once a year upon the call of the Chairman.

(Note: The proposed By-Law amendment is highlighted in gray above)

Closing Comments

Our Association officers recognize that not everyone may agree with these proposed Constitution and By-Law amendments. We hope you can attend our 2007 Annual Meeting on September 29 to participate in our discussion and vote on these proposed amendments. If you are unable to attend our 2007 Annual Meeting but wish to make your opinion known, please mail or email written comments to reach our Recording Secretary by no later than Saturday, September 22, 2007. At our Annual Meeting, as part of our discussion before voting, these written comments will be read.

You may submit written comments to our Recording Secretary, Clare Mershon:

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

or Email: ECMershon@aol.com