



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)

March, 2009

2009 Mershon Annual Meeting to be held at Historic Huguenot Street in New Paltz, NY on July 16 & 17, 2009

The New Paltz area provides opportunities to make this a great site for a family vacation.

The 2009 Annual Meeting of our Mershon Association will be at a special time and place this year. We will meet on Thursday and Friday, July 16 & 17, 2009 at Historic Huguenot Street, a National Historic Landmark District in New Paltz, NY. We will be having a two day meeting to take advantage of the educational programs offered by Historic Huguenot Street.

Historic New Paltz was selected for our 2009 Annual Meeting based on a poll at our Lawrenceville September 2008 Annual Meeting. Our July 16 & 17, 2009 meeting date is an experiment to see if persons with school age children and persons employed by schools will find it more attractive to attend our annual meeting during the school vacation season instead of our traditional meeting date in September. We intend to return to Lawrenceville, NJ, for our 2010 Mershon Annual Meeting.

Historic Huguenot Street is incorporated as the Huguenot Historical Society. This organization began in 1894 with one historic house and the purpose of preserving the history of the early French Huguenot settlers in the New Paltz area. The Huguenot Street historic district now features 7 historic houses dating to 1705 and a reconstructed 1717 stone French Church. The organization owns two other historic houses at Locust Lawn, four miles from Huguenot Street. A Huguenot reference library is open on weekdays. For more information, visit the Huguenot Street website at www.huguenotstreet.org. Maybe you will consider joining the Society. Nearby lodging is offered at the Super 8 Motel, 7 Terwilliger Lane, New Paltz, NY 12561, telephone (845) 255-8865, or (800) 800-8000. You can view the motel online at www.super8newpaltz.com. Room rates with tax are \$86.90 Sunday through Thursday nights, \$108.90 on Friday night and \$152.90 on Saturday night. Continental breakfast is included in the room rates.

For persons desiring other lodging, there are numerous resorts, bed & breakfast, and camping options in the area. A detailed list of lodging options is available from the New Paltz Regional Chamber of Commerce, online at <http://www.newpaltzchamber.org/> or telephone (845) 255-0243.

New Paltz is a town of 12,830 residents in the Hudson River Valley, on the New York State Thruway (I-87), about 90 miles north of New York City. New Paltz is the home of the State University of New York at New Paltz. This area is in the foothills of the Catskill Mountains. For persons traveling a distance, Stewart International Airport with car rentals is located near Newburgh, 23 miles south of New Paltz. Albany International Airport is 90 miles north of New Paltz.

For persons interested in sightseeing around New Paltz, the former home of President Franklin Roosevelt is at Hyde Park, approximately 15 miles east, crossing the Hudson River using the Mid-Hudson Bridge. The Roosevelt home is a National Historic Site. Kingston, the first capital city of New York, is 12 miles north. The U.S. Military Academy at West Point with its military museum is 42 miles south. There is good bus service by Trailways into New York City to see the Metropolitan Art Museum, Broadway plays, Empire State Building and the many other attractions in the City.

We are grateful to Mershon descendant Beverly Goldstein of Woodland Valley, NY, for her ongoing help in arranging for our 2009 Annual Meeting. See the next News Bulletin for program details and a registration form.



Report on 2008 Mershon Annual Meeting

The 2008 Annual Meeting of The Association of the Descendants of Henry Mershon convened on Saturday morning, September 20th, in the Fellowship Hall of the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville. There were 28 persons attending the meeting.



Saturday Morning: Following the welcome, invocation and pledge of allegiance; each person introduced themselves by describing their background, place of residence and their Mershon family connection.

Treasurer Report: Joan Swearer reported cash assets of \$4,954.52 in our checking account plus an \$8,000.00 Certificate of Deposit = \$12,954.52 total as of September 20, 2008.

Officers and Committees for 2009 were elected as follows:

Officers -

President: Clare Mershon
Vice-President: Beth Carter
Treasurer: Joan Swearer
Corresponding Secretary: Beverly Mershon
Recording Secretary: Gayle Murphy
Genealogist/Historian: Teresa Mershon

Executive Committee -

Dr. James Mershon Elaine Tredinnick
Clara Buroff Clare Mershon
Noel Barton Michael Murphy
William Trott Doris Harris

Board of Trustees -

Dr. James Mershon
Clara Buroff
Noel Barton

Planning Committee -

Clare Mershon
Noel Barton
Michael Murphy
Jeanne Stotler
Elaine Tredinnick
Beverly Goldstein
Lynn Mershon Calvin

Discussion of Proposed Sites for 2009 Annual Meeting:

In accordance with the changes approved in 2007 to our Mershon Association Constitution and Bylaws to permit holding our annual meeting in locations other than Lawrenceville and at times other the Saturday closest to September 20th, we discussed the possibility of holding our 2009 meeting in other locations suggested by our members. We discussed the attractions in each location. At the end of our discussion, each person was invited to vote by ballot for the two locations they would most like to visit for our 2009 Annual Meeting. The vote results were –

New Paltz, NY (Huguenot Historical Society) – 18 votes
Salt Lake City, Utah (LDS Family History Center) – 12 votes
Virginia & Kentucky (Mershon families migrated to VA & KY from NJ) – 3 votes
Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (Mershon Auditorium) – 2 votes
Saginaw, MI (former home of Mershon Lumber Co.) – 0 votes
Florida/Georgia (coordinate with Southern Mershon Chapter) – 1 vote
Tennessee – 1 vote
Lawrenceville, NJ (traditional site) – 3 votes

These vote results will provide guidance for planning our 2009 Annual Meeting. Several persons expressed their desire to maintain our connection with Lawrenceville as the regular location for our annual meetings with other sites considered not more often than every other year. This is because the Mershon Room and our important family history sites are near Lawrenceville.

We adjourned for a catered box lunch in the Church Fellowship Hall.

Saturday Afternoon: Clare Mershon introduced Jacqueline Haun, Library Archivist for the Lawrenceville School. Jacqueline presented a PowerPoint program on the Lawrenceville School history, highlighting Mershon family members who have attended the school over the years. Also, the history of the early 1700s “Old Brick” house and farm that was owned by Mershon family members for 137 years before being purchased by the school in 1892 to become part of the current school campus. See *Henry Mershon III and His Descendants*, 1953, pages 23-34.



As part of the program, Weedie Stokes read an 1864 letter from Mershon descendant Ella Elizabeth Reeder, writing home in her first year as a 14 year old pupil at the Lawrenceville Female Seminary. Ella described attending church on Sunday mornings with the Lawrenceville School boys: "...when we go to church we have to sit under one side of the gallery and the boys above us and then we are watched all the time to see if we try to look up..."

Following Weedie's presentation, Jacqueline led us on a walking tour of the "Old Brick" former Mershon house and the school central campus. The "Old Brick" house has variously been a student dormitory and a school health infirmary over the years. It has been a faculty residence since the 1930's. With the cooperation of the current faculty resident family, we were able to tour the inside of the house. There are six fireplaces inside the house.



You can read more information about the "Old Brick" former Mershon house in the Lawrenceville Historical Society Fall 2008 newsletter, available on the internet at <http://www.thelhs.org/newsletters/fall2008.pdf>

After touring the "Old Brick", several of our group split off to see the former home of Caleb Mershon (1838-1906) at 2775 Lawrenceville Road, across the street from the "Old Brick." This house remained in the hands of Mershon descendants until 1946. A Princeton University professor now owns the house. We had permission to walk around the house and grounds. See *Henry Mershon III and His Descendants*, 1953, page 33, paragraph group 32.

Following our walking tour, we traveled 0.6 mile towards Princeton on

Lawrenceville Road to the Lawrenceville Upper Cemetery for a short remembrance service led by Elaine Tredinnick at the grave of our common ancestor, Henry Mershon II. Doris Harris played music on her autoharp. Our remembrance service marked the 270th anniversary of Henry II's death.

Saturday Evening: We gathered at 7 pm for an enjoyable group dinner at Leonardo's II, an Italian restaurant on U.S. Highway 1 in Lawrence Township. This event concluded our 2008 Annual Meeting.



Dr. Jim Mershon to Retire as Mershon News Bulletin Editor Beverly Mershon to Retire as Corresponding Secretary

Dr. Jim and Beverly Mershon of Wichita, KS, have announced their retirements as our News Bulletin Editor and as our Corresponding Secretary following this News Bulletin issue. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Jim and Beverly for performing these important jobs since 2000. Jim was our News Bulletin Editor while also serving as our Mershon Association President from 2000 to 2007. At the request of Clare Mershon, Jim and Bev graciously agreed to continue as our News Bulletin Editor and Corresponding Secretary until July.

Jim says he has too many unfinished retirement projects and now desires to turn over the News Bulletin to another person with a strong interest in continuing this important outreach to Mershon descendants. We currently have a News Bulletin distribution list of 320 email addresses plus a list of 700 mail addresses that receive our News Bulletin.

As our Corresponding Secretary, Beverly has faithfully maintained our Mershon Association mailing list, answered inquiries, received donations and written thank you letters acknowledging donations.

If you are interested in being considered for appointment as our Mershon News Bulletin Editor or as our Corresponding Secretary, please contact Clare Mershon at ECMershon@aol.com or call him at (503) 252-7139.

MERSHON GATHERINGS

Southern Chapter of the Mershon Association Annual Reunion Kansas City, MO on June 19 & 20, 2009

Hosts: Jim and Betty Butler

Reservation Information: A block of rooms has been reserved at:

Holiday Inn Express

19901 E. Valley View Parkway

Independence, MO 64057

Telephone 816-795-8889, FAX 816-795-1734

Please make reservations by May 16, 2009, at which time the rooms will be released back into hotel inventory. However, a reservation may still be made after the room block has been released, provided there are rooms available. Reservations may be canceled by 6 PM the day of arrival.

Use this group name when making a reservation: Mershon Family Reunion

The block of rooms is reserved from June 16 to June 21, with the option of adding days for those who would like a longer stay.

Room Rate: \$99.00 per night, plus tax of 14.7%. This is for a room with two queen beds. This hotel is a smoke free environment for the most part. However, there are a few smoking rooms. Persons who desire smoking rooms should make their reservations early. Pets require a one-time \$25.00 charge. Breakfast is included with the room.

Directions: This hotel is located East of the city, just off I-70. Take Exit 17 off I-70 and turn south, very shortly you will turn west, or right (Blue Ridge Bank Bldg on corner) onto Valley View Parkway - hotel is on left just over the hill. Information for Friday night's dinner and Saturday's meeting will await you when you check into hotel, along with information on several KC and Independence sites you may wish to visit, as well as other plans. This hotel is about an hour from the airport, which is north of the city.

Local Attractions: Truman Historical Area, Steamship Arabia Museum, World War I Museum, Railroad Museum and the Plaza Shopping Center. For baseball fans, the Kansas City Royals are playing a three game series with the St. Louis Cardinals this weekend. The baseball stadium is near the hotel. Questions: Contact Betty Butler at 816-358-5313 or email bettybutlr@aol.com

Oregon Mershon Picnic on Sunday, August 16, 2009

The Oregon Mershon Picnic will be held at Dodge Park near Sandy, OR, on Sunday afternoon, August 16, 2009, from 1 PM to 4 PM. All Mershon descendants and friends are invited. For more information, call Clare Mershon at (503) 252-7139 or email to ECMershon@aol.com

Mershon Annual Meeting in New Paltz, NY on July 16 & 17, 2009

See page 1 for more info.

Note the change of dates from September to July. Save these dates and watch for the notice with registration materials in about two months.

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 and <http://www.thelhs.org/> accesses the Lawrenceville Historical Society.

Titus and Nancy Mershon Honored by Daughters of American Revolution (DAR) Grave Marking Ceremony

The graves of William Titus and Nancy (Weeden) Mershon near East Bernstadt, Laurel County, Kentucky, were honored on October 18, 2008 by the installation of DAR Patriot Marker plaques. Two energetic Tennessee DAR members and descendants of Titus and Nancy Mershon organized this DAR sanctioned ceremony: Doris Harris of Camden, TN, and daughter Connie Hensley of Nashville, TN.



After locating the graves on wooded private property owned by Dr. Dennis Ulrich, Doris and Connie were struck by the isolation of the graves and the fact that the stone markers had only initials and the dates of death. Doris and Connie decided to improve the situation by assembling documentation of Titus Mershon's Revolutionary War service and applying to the National Society of the DAR for permission to place DAR Patriot Marker plaques on the graves. After receiving DAR approval, Doris and Connie ordered the plaques and began planning the ceremony.

Titus Mershon was born in 1756 in Maidenhead, NJ. He served in the New Jersey Militia during the Revolutionary War. According to his Revolutionary War pension application filed in 1834 at age 78, Titus crossed the Delaware River with General Washington on Christmas night 1776 and he

participated in the First and Second Battles of Trenton. Titus suffered a bayonet wound in his thigh and a broken shoulder from using his musket during the Second Battle of Trenton near the bridge (Assunpink Creek Bridge?). Titus also participated in the Battle of Monmouth (NJ, 1778) and the Battle of Cowpens (SC, 1781). After surviving the war, Titus moved to Morgantown, VA, then to Kentucky where he married Nancy Anna Weeden in 1796. They became the parents of six children before Nancy died in 1813. Titus remarried in 1832 and died in 1841. See *Henry Mershon III and His Descendants*, pages 16 to 19.



Approximately 50 family and friends attended the DAR ceremony. A Color Guard from the Kentucky National Guard participated. After the pledge of allegiance and invocation, Connie presented a brief history of Titus and Nancy. Mary Shear and Gladys Stewart, local Kentucky DAR Chapter officers, presented the DAR Patriots Ritual and unveiled the beautiful bronze plaques. The sad notes of "Taps" closed the ceremony.

The Sentinel Echo (London, KY) and the Camden Chronicle (Camden, TN) newspapers published articles about the ceremony. Dr. Ulrich, the property owner, said "...As long as I reside here, any of the descendants are welcome to visit." For more information, contact Doris Harris at (731) 584-9967 or email at drharr@bellsouth.net. Congratulations to Doris and Connie for organizing this ceremony to honor the memory of Titus and Nancy Mershon!

Meet Beth Carter, Your New Vice President

Hello Mershon Descendants,

This past September I attended my first meeting in Lawrenceville, N.J. and was truly awestruck to be standing in the church where our Mershon ancestors worshipped. What a treat it was! During this meeting I happily volunteered, and was elected to serve, as Vice President of the Mershon Association.

I was born and raised in the Ridley Park, PA, area just 20 minutes south of Philadelphia and am a descendant of Andrew Mershon and his son Lt. Henry Mershon and the great (3) - grand-daughter of Ann Mershon and Amos Carter of Thornbury, PA. I never knew these roots until I migrated out to Denver, Colorado in 1981 and began research with my Dad, John Carter. Dad passed away in 2000, but he would of been astonished to see the progress that I've made.

I've been in the engineering and IT field for about 25 years now, and I'm fortunate to have a job as a Product Line Manager for Sun Microsystems where I can work from home and hang out with my great pets JoJo, Buddy, and Princess. My 16-year-old son, Michael, and I enjoy hiking the Rockies, skiing, traveling, and of course, I love genealogy. I have to admit though, even with this great climate, spectacular views, and vast array of things to do, there's nothing like the ocean.

Have a great spring and I look forward to meeting you in July.

Best Regards, Beth Carter



CONTRIBUTIONS 2008

\$300 or higher

Alan M. Craft, TX
Bonnie Ahrens, IA

\$250 or higher

Vernon C. Thomson, Jr, IL
Jim and Bev Mershon, KS

\$100 or higher

Lallie Benkowski, GA
Jane Hutton, OH
Georgia O'Hare, OK

(If your name is missing, please contact bsmershon@aol.com.)

Others

Craig L. /Jane Spencer, ID
Pat Bond, NC

Arlene Adams, OR
Susan & Billy Anderson, CO

Noel Barton, UT
Harriet Hunter, OH
Virginia Fisher, GA

THANK YOU!

ANDREW MERSHON'S TAVERN

For Sale



John D'Antonio, owner of the Andrew Mershon Tavern, called saying he and Rebecca are considering putting the Andrew Mershon Tavern up for sale. John called to ask if the Mershon family might like to buy it. Clare told John that our Mershon Association finances are limited, but there might be someone interested in our family. If anyone is interested, contact John D'Antonio at 267-322-0713.

MERSHON STORE

For more information about Mershon books and items, please consult your August 2008 news bulletin or go online at www.mershonassoc.com.



J. Mershon
7617 Donegal Ln
Wichita, KS 67206