



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, 2007

Officers 2007

President: *James Mershon*
Vice-President: *Open*
Treasurer: *Grant Simmons*
Corresponding Secretary: *Beverly Mershon*
Recording Secretary: *Clare Mershon*
Members-at Large: *Noel Barton and Joanne Witiak*
Genealogist: *William Trott*
Parliamentarian: *Lallie Benkoski*
Board of Trustees: *James Mershon, Clara Buroff, and Lallie Benkoski*

THE 2006 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION WAS HELD IN LAWRENCEVILLE, NJ ON SEPTEMBER 30

The 2006 Annual Mershon Association meeting commenced at 9:00 AM at the Lawrenceville Presbyterian Church. The experiences of this special day are described in the minutes and in the program notes below.

PROGRAMS

Morning Program: Powder, Potion, Bolus, and Pill – Robert Butera, a costumed re-enactor from The Old Barracks in Trenton, presented an entertaining program of Revolutionary War medical practices, medicines and surgical instruments. Medical Doctors in the 18th century qualified to practice medicine by serving a two-year apprenticeship. Leeching to remove “bad blood” was a common treatment for many ailments.

Afternoon Program: Following lunch, Jim Mershon introduced David Emerson, a re-enactor from The Old Barracks, to lead our bus tour following the route of the December 26, 1776 march of the Continental Army from their Delaware River Crossing to Trenton.

After loading the tour bus at the church, we traveled on Route 1 into Trenton and across the Delaware River into Pennsylvania. We drove on the scenic west side of the Delaware River north to I-95. Our bus was too heavy for the Washington’s Crossing Bridge, so we re-crossed the Delaware River into New Jersey on the I-95 Bridge. We followed River Road north to Washington’s Crossing. We unloaded to hear a vivid description of the night crossing by Washington’s Army. We then drove to the nearby Andrew Mershon Tavern Site. We walked around the outside of the former Colonial Tavern and enjoyed meeting new owners John D’Antonio and Rebecca Hodges.



At Assunpink Creek in Trenton, Dave Emerson describes the end of the first Battle of Trenton on December 26, 1776.

We drove south toward Trenton, mostly following the route of Washington’s Army. Entering Trenton, we saw the intersection where Washington divided his Army to hit Trenton at two locations. We unloaded for a rest stop at The Old Barracks, then walked about six blocks south to where the Battle of Trenton ended at the Assunpink Creek Bridge on Bordentown Road.



Dave Emerson, (impersonating George Washington), explains the events at Washington’s Crossing, Dec. 25-26, 1776.

BUSINESS MEETING

2006 Mershon Association Annual Meeting Minutes September 30, 2006

Call to Order: President Dr. Jim Mershon called our 2006 Annual Meeting to order in the Fellowship Hall of the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville, 2688 Main Street, Lawrenceville, NJ. Forty persons attended. Clare Mershon led the Invocation.

Presidents Report: Jim Mershon reported that Noel Barton has made significant strides toward organizing our archives. Our most significant family documents and photographs are now digitized. They will be available on CD/DVD's to the family. Noel will describe his work on our archives at our evening meeting.

In addition to our Mershon Genealogy books, there are new Mershon Family polo shirts and a DVD or VHS of a tour of Andrew Mershon's Tavern led by previous owner, Elmer Smith, is available in our Mershon Store (see below). Elmer Smith has recently donated some old artifacts from the Andrew Mershon Tavern Site to our Association. Jim passed around a photo of these artifacts. A copy of the photo is also posted on www.mershonassoc.com and is included in the Andrew Mershon Tavern Album.

Websites: Jim Mershon described the two Mershon websites – www.henrymershon.com (this website is owned and maintained by Bill Trott) www.mershonassoc.com (this website is owned by the Association and maintained by Jim Mershon)

Election of Officers for 2007

President: James Mershon

Vice-President: Open

Treasurer: Grant Simmons



Rebecca Hodges and John D'Antonio, new owners of Andrew Mershon's Tavern.

Corresponding Secretary: Beverly Mershon

Recording Secretary: Clare Mershon

Members-at Large: Noel Barton and Joanne Witiak

Genealogist: William Trott

Parliamentarian: Lallie Benkoski

Board of Trustees: James Mershon, Clara Buroff, and Lallie Benkoski

Executive Committee

James Mershon, Betty Butler, Grant Simmons, Clara Buroff, Clare Mershon, Jeanne Mershon (?), Lallie Benkoski, Noel Barton, Michael Murphy, William Trott, Joanne Witiak, David Mershon

Jim Mershon asked for additional nominations from the floor, there being none it was MSC (Moved, Seconded, and Carried): To elect the nominees for 2007 as presented (unanimously passed).

Summary of 2006 Executive Board Meeting Minutes

Jim Mershon reported on items discussed and actions taken at the Executive Board Meeting on September 29.

Updating Mershon Genealogy Books – We are discussing ways to update the books and correct known errors.

Adoptions – Clare Mershon read the motion approved by our Board stating that legally adopted children shall be considered as family members and Mershon descendants. We will ask our genealogist to record the descendants of persons adopted into our Mershon family. Diana Ricigliano asked if the adoption would be recorded. After a discussion, Noel Barton recommended that an adoption be recorded in parentheses next to the adopted person's name. There was general agreement on this recommendation.

Meetings in Other Locations – The Board is considering this possibility. The President will appoint a committee to study this and make recommendations.

Andrew Mershon Tavern Album – The Board approved proceeding with publication of the draft Andrew Mershon Tavern Album. Clare Mershon is looking for more good photos of the Tavern to April 2007.

We need money to continue our efforts. Grant encouraged everyone to leave something to our Mershon Association in our Will or Trust (however donations are not at this time tax deductible. Send contributions for this effort and for operating expenses to Beverly Mershon, 7617 Donegal Ln., Wichita, KS 67206.

(See Copies of all 2006 minutes at www.mershonassoc.com and www.henrymershon.com)

Clare Mershon, Recording Secretary

Dr. James Mershon, President

MERSHON STORE

Books

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

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 for costs for handling and postage.

Videos/ DVD's

Tour of Andrew's Tavern—with Elmer Smith, the longtime owner who carefully did the restoration, doing the narration. This production was done professionally under the direction of E. Clare Mershon. Owning the 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 recently sold the old Tavern.

This is something you will want to own for yourself and use as gifts! It is available in DVD or VHS format for \$20, including postage from Clare Mershon. Write him at 3809 NE 136th Place, Portland, OR 97230 or at ECMERSHON@AOL.COM.

Documents from the Mershon Association Archives—DVD contains all of our historic documents is available for \$20, contact Grant Simmons at gls@4link.net

Photos from the Mershon Association Archives—DVD available for \$20, contact Grant Simmons at gls@4link.net or write to him at 5866 Le Sage Avenue, Woodland Hills, CA 91367

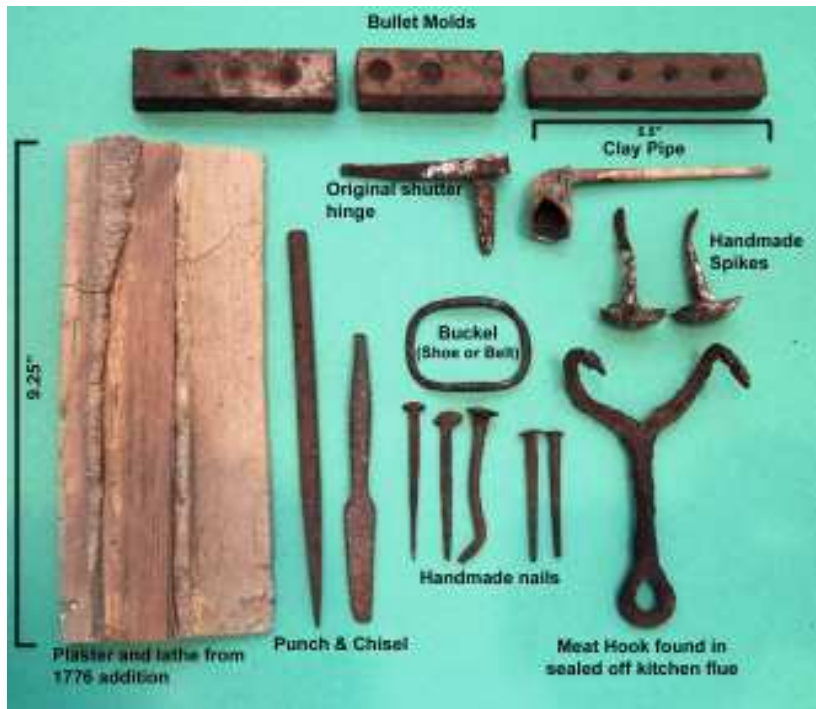
Polo Shirt

New for 2006 was a polo shirt designed by Grant Simmons. This attractive item is available in small, medium, large, and extra large sizes. The caption reads "The Mershons--An American Family Since 1685." (If you receive this via email you may right click to enlarge the image.) The cost for each shirt is \$16.00 (please add \$2.00 postage and handling). These will make great gifts!

Contact Grant Simmons at gls@4link.net or write to him at 5866 Le Sage Avenue, Woodland Hills, CA 91367.



CACHE OF ARTIFACTS FROM ANDREWS TAVERN



These are artifacts from Andrew's Tavern. Most are pre-revolutionary war era. Elmer Smith (property owner from 1976 to 2006) donated these to us.

You may see these artifacts from Andrew's Tavern in color by going to www.mershonassoc.com

FROM THE SOUTHERN CHAPTER

"2007 REUNION: The Southern Branch of the Mershon Association will hold its annual reunion in Nashville, TN on Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5, 2007. Ann Roberts and Betty Butler are co-hosting this event. More information will be sent in the next few months." If necessary, you may contact Betty for more info (bettybutlr@aol.com).

OREGON MERSHON FAMILY AND FRIENDS POTLUCK PICNIC

Sunday, August 19th, 2007. More information to follow in the summer issue, or contact ecmershon@aol.com.

ARCHIVE STORAGE

For the past four years, your officers have searched for a better method of protecting our archival data. In 2006, we met two of our goals-- most of our significant paper archives and photographs were digitized and the originals are in secure storage. (Read in the minutes above the details of the work done by Noel Barton.) DVDs are available for purchase—see the "MERSHON STORE."

2006 Group Picture - Sept 30, 2006





Linton Family Musicians Perform at the White House

By special invitation, Jeff and Alison Linton's seven children of West Chester, PA, performed a one-hour musical program at the White House on Monday afternoon, December 11, 2006, from 3 pm to 4 pm. The Linton children were invited to perform during a special occasion where New Appointees and their families were touring the White House.

The Linton family performers included Susanna (22) on the piano, Jean (20) on flute, Meloy (18) on cello, Hope (16) on violin, Eleanor (15) on viola, B. Jeanette (13) on violin and Isaac (8) on violin. Their one-hour musical program consisted of Classical pieces, traditional Christmas carols, arrangements of holiday favorites and medleys of selected sacred pieces. Alison heard several guests comment on the White House poster identifying the family and hometown by saying "Oh, they're all in one family." The Linton children performed their musical program in the East Foyer of the White House, a spacious open area that looks out onto lovely gardens as well as the Washington Monument in the distance. Susanna felt the acoustics were never better - all marble floors and walls - similar to the beautiful sound from their two trips to play in the Pennsylvania State Capitol Rotunda in Harrisburg. While the Linton's did not meet the President or First Lady, the White House did provide the Linton family with a personal hostess who made sure they had everything they needed including the piano, chairs and water plus a guided tour of the White House.

Two favorite memories of the Linton children are watching the massive Iron Gate outside the White House silently slide down into the ground after a trained canine sniffed their van. This opened the way to drive right up to

the East Entrance, where each person was thoroughly searched.

You may recall the Linton children performing a musical program at our 2003 Mershon Reunion in Lawrenceville. Alison (Johnsrud) Linton is the great-granddaughter of Rev. Allison P. Mershon, one of the founders of our Mershon Association. The Linton children are home schooled through the 12th grade. The Linton children share their music almost weekly at a local assisted living facility and for many special events. Alison credits their musical abilities to the Lord, strict music teachers and hard work by the children. You can learn more at www.lintonfamilymusicians.com

Upcoming Mershon Projects for 2007:

Video of 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/Mershon Room, Nassau Hall/FitzRandolph Gate at Princeton and the home of Marie Louise "Weedie" Stokes. The oldest part of Weedie's home was the home of Houghton Mershon built approx. 1740. Weedie's home is on land inherited by Houghton from his father, Henry Mershon II. Under the direction of Trish Simmons, Senior Writer for television programs produced in Los Angeles and the spouse of our Treasurer Grant Simmons, this video has gone through two edits and will be finalized this spring. Ordering information about this video will be publicized on www.mershonassoc.com and in our summer 2007 newsletter. This video is intended to complement our 2005 Video Tour of the Andrew Mershon Tavern Site.

Andrew Mershon Tavern Album - This new Mershon Association publication will include 8 historic black & white photos of Andrew Mershon's former home plus 17 contemporary color photos of both the interior and exterior. The earliest photos date from approx. 1928 when Lucile Mershon located Andrew Mershon's former home and colonial tavern. The album will include an architectural scale drawing of the main floor plus a color photo of building artifacts donated by Elmer Smith in 2006 to the Mershon Association. After printing, information about ordering this new publication will be publicized on www.mershonassoc.com and in our summer 2007 newsletter.

Newsflash!

Bill Trott reported on 1/30/07 that there is a new Mershon to record. His daughter, Beth (Trot) Raney gave birth to a 9 1/2 pound baby boy--Jared Walker Taney. Both mom and son were doing very well.

CONCLUDING THOUGHTS

Donations Please send contributions to help defray costs of preserving our archives and for operating expenses to Beverly Mershon, 7617 Donegal Ln., Wichita, KS 67206.

Email addresses Please send your email address to Bsmershon@aol.com. You will receive information re the association that arises between newsletters, your newsletters will come earlier, and pictures will have more definition—and we will save postage. It is critical that you update address changes; we do not want to lose you!

The 2007 meeting Make plans for September 29 in Lawrenceville. We are planning informative guided bus tour to the sites of the 2nd Battle of Trenton and the Battle of Princeton. More information will be in the summer newsletter. We hope to see you there.

It is clear that our organization has made great strides in the last two to three years. Many people have exerted great effort for this to happen. I want to recognize the following for their many contributions: Noel Barton, Clare Mershon, Grant Simmons, Diana Ricigliano, Bev Mershon, and Lallie Benkowski.

James C. Mershon, President



Grant Simmons interviews Weedie Stokes



J. Mershon, President
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