

# The Merrill Newsletter

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## "CONDITIONS" IN THE ORCHARD!

by Beverly Merrill

Have you ever driven along a country road, or walked a city street for that matter, when your eye was caught by a weathered old house whose structure had survived the ravages of time? Perhaps it still stood in its regal beauty or perhaps it was tattered around the edges, in either case showing that it was "home" to those who peopled it. Have you ever wondered what stories - joys, heartaches ... and in between - the walls might tell if only -- *if only* -- those walls could talk?



Such an old house stands beside the road in Stratham, New Hampshire - a one and a half story center-chimney cape. The shed behind the house bears a sign indicating the property's origin "Joseph Merrill ca 1718." My friend Karen from Winslow, Maine, told me about the shed and sign, and then my friend Pat from Stratham, New Hampshire, took me to see it. The house, which lies close to each of the roads at the intersection of Bunker Hill Avenue and Frying Pan Lane, sits almost on the ground, its underpinnings resting on what appears to be a granite or stone foundation, and its sides now covered with modern, light gray siding.



The weathered gray shingles of the shed, however, attest to age. One can imagine that at one time a barn, larger than the house structure itself, sat nearby.



"Joseph Merrill c. 1718," the sign on the shed reads and thus, Karen's, Pat's, and my interests were piqued; Karen because she, like me, descends from that Joseph Merrill (as does Lil Hall, editor of *The Merrill Newsletter*), and Pat because she is an active member of the Stratham Historical Society. We probably couldn't find the individual "stories" of the lives lived within its walls, but we might perhaps discover the families that lived there and speculate somewhat about their lives. Our interest was further piqued by Pat's "find" at the Historical Society of articles appearing in New Hampshire publications in 1976 and the late 1980's which detailed one particular life which ended there "before its time."

**JOSEPH MERRILL(4) (Daniel (3); Daniel (2); Nathaniel (1))**, the first child of Daniel(3) and Esther Chase Merrill of Newbury and Haverhill, Massachusetts, was born on May 28, 1694. On December 16, 1718, he married **MARY PALMER** in Stratham, New Hampshire. It appears that he and his bride moved into the house at about the time of their marriage. Joseph supported his family through shoemaking and farming. The birth and death dates of their children and of Mary herself attest to the joys and heartaches of this family, apparently the first occupants of the house. the joy of a young bride fussing about in her new home; the joy of holding their new born baby; the pain of laying to rest two young children within two months from a plague devouring the town's children; the pain of losing a son to war; the pain of a young father left alone to raise his family.

Joseph and Mary and their descendants continued to make the house their home experiencing, one can assume, life's good and bad, marriages and births, first steps and first words, frustrations and achievements, anger and laughter, joys and sorrows, death both timely and otherwise from 1718 through the late 1800's, as follows:

JOSEPH(4) (1694-1771) and MARY PALMER MERRILL and their family; then

JAMES(5) (1729-1781) MERRILL (son of Joseph and Mary), and his wife, Sarah Ford Merrill, and their family; then

FORD(6) (1753-1826) and ELIZABETH (BETSY or BETTSEY)(6) MERRILL MERRILL (son of James and Sarah and daughter of Daniel and Elsie Leavitt Merrill both are grandchildren of Joseph and Mary), and their family; then

MARY/POLLY(7) MERRILL (1786-after 1860) (unmarried daughter of Ford and Elizabeth), first with her mother, Elizabeth, after her father's death, then by herself, and then with her cousin, Levi (her Uncle Jesse's son), and his family. Ownership, however, appears to have been in the name of her brother, ASA (REV) MERRILL (1783-1860) both great grandchildren of Joseph and Mary); then

LEVI(7) MERRILL (ca 1800-after 1860) (Levi is the son of James and Sarah's son Jesse, a nephew of Ford's, a great grandchild of Joseph and Mary), with his wife and family; then

JESSE(8) MERRILL (ca 1825?) (son of Levi and Susan Merrill, a great, great grandchild of Joseph and Mary), with his wife, Irena, and family, including his daughter, ANNIE(9) MERRILL (ca 1861-1882) (a great, great, great grandchild of Joseph and Mary)<sup>1</sup>

From the late 1800's through 1953, there is a hiatus in the material I have concerning the occupancy of the house.<sup>2</sup> How long Joseph's and Mary's line continued living in the house after Jesse(8)'s family, I do not know. However, the newspaper articles published in 1976 and the late 1980's show that the property was purchased by a Leslie and Ruth Conery in 1953 and that they (non-Merrills, I presume) raised their family there. I am told that Ruth Conery still occupies the house.

Shortly after moving into their "new" home, Mr. And Mrs. Conery began to notice strange things happening. Their young children slept in an upstairs bedroom, the low ceilings of a cape-style house making it extremely hot in summer months. The parents encouraged the children to sleep with the door open to another upstairs bedroom to let the breeze blow through, but they refused always closing the door. When asked why the children told their mother that "there was always a feeling up there in that room." When a young baby was brought to the house and put in that upstairs room to nap, it always cried as if being hurt, could not be consoled, and would not sleep. Removed from the bedroom, the fussing stopped. His bath tub hanging on a pantry hook would often fall from its hook even when a more secure fastener was installed. The family had a deaf Cocker Spaniel who, while lying quietly asleep in the kitchen, would suddenly jump up and run howling to the stairwell, hair standing up, barking, and very much on edge. The dog, unable to hear, sensed something that troubled it, but no reason for the behavior was visible. A customer of their Christmas tree farm once brought his Collie inside. The dog went over to the stairs, its hair standing up, then ran back cowering to hide behind its master's legs. Often the door to the pantry which lead out into the woodshed would open and shut, the door handle turning by itself with no one there. A ghost! Whose ghost? Why the spirit's unrest?

While re-roofing the house, a diary was found tucked away up under the eaves in the old thatch section of the roof. It, they discovered, had belonged to Annie Merrill. With it were three calling cards, two being those of one Frank E. Barry (Berry) (one having a notation that Frank married on August 4 [no year noted]) and the other one of Annie E. Merrill, all three tied together with a garland of what appeared to be morning glories. The first diary entry said "Engaged December 1878, Frank E. Barry." It goes on, among other things, to document Annie's meetings with Frank and that she "had conditions with Frank" ... whatever "conditions" might be. Her January 3, 1882 entry read: "Shall we not meet in Heaven's bright home where parting words are never spoken and love is not a brittle band so lightly broken." Frank had married someone else, but their meetings continued. She documented a meeting on October 27, 1882 by writing "Condition wi- FEB in L's Orc-d in forenoon" (Lane's Orchard was near the house on the other side of the road) and then added "God Bless Darling Frank ..."

The "Exeter Newsletter" reported on November 20, 1882, three weeks after her last documented meeting with Frank that:

"On Monday, Annie, daughter of Jessie Merrill of Stratham, committed suicide by hanging herself with a clothes line from a beam in the shed. It appears that about eleven o'clock she announced her intention to call on a neighbor named Mrs. Chase, and when Mr. Merrill, who had been in Portsmouth, returned, he inquired of his daughter. He was told she was at Mrs. Chase's. He went to Mrs. Chase's for her<sup>3</sup> and was told she had not been there. Returning home, he went to the barn and noticed that a short ladder was missing from its usual place. He then went to the wood shed where he found his daughter hanging by the neck, already dead. No cause is assigned for the act."

Some 75 or 80 years later the calling cards, the diary, and a suicide note/poem found under the old thatched roof in the house at the corner of Bunker Hill Road and Frying Pan Lane ... a house that had seen many a heartache over its years ... shed light on perhaps its greatest tragedy. The "walls" of the 1718 farmhouse did, in fact, tell us the story of one of its occupants. We can only speculate as to what she meant by "conditions," but the presumption would be that those "conditions" led to a certain "condition;" that a child was on the way (hence her spirit's unrest in the presence of children); that she feared the

reaction of her father, Jesse, who was said to be "a harsh authoritarian man who often inflicted corporal abuse on his family;" and that, with Frank's marriage to another, she could no longer bear her pain. Her suicide note/poem reads as follows:

*You will meet and you may miss me,  
You will never hear your sister's voice,  
It will be hushed and silent,  
Never more make you rejoice.  
Yes, the lips that used to kiss you  
And to you your (my) sorrows trust  
And the form that was so slender  
Will be mouldering back to dust.*

*Oh, this world is full of sorrows  
And my heart has had its share  
Still I battled with them bravely  
Till they came to hard to bare.  
Of the hours I've spent in weeping  
You will never, never know  
But I cast my cares on Jesus  
And to Him I now shall go.*

*Sisters we have sung together  
In this world of joy and pain  
We have met and we have parted  
We shall never meet again  
You will meet and sing together  
I'll sing on the other shore  
And the places that have known me  
They will know me never more.*

*I have often thought dear sisters  
That you did not care for me  
When I've looked and longed and waited  
For a note or word from thee.  
Time hung, heavy long and lonesome  
And I used to think and moan  
Oh the days and hours are weary  
As I had to stay alone.*

*My dear sisters once so happy  
But it was too bright to last  
Life looked bright and cheerful to us*

*But that, that is forever past.  
Oh the love I fondly cherished  
From the heart I deemed so true  
Proved to be so cold and cruel  
God alone its meaning knew.*

*But that heart I wish no sorrow  
May it be from sin stain free  
God is just and He will deal with him  
As He has dealt with me.  
Oh I long to be with Jesus  
In the mansions of the blest  
Where the wicked cease from trouble  
And the weary are at rest.*

*You must try and comfort Mother  
Stay with her as I have done.  
Be not harsh but gentle give her  
As her race is nearly run.  
Sisters, Mother, all forgive me  
For this dark and gloomy act  
If you knew my troubled heart  
You could never wish me back.*

*Let my ring be on my finger  
For it was his pledge of love  
And the night he placed it there  
God looked on us from above.  
Yes my heart was in his keeping  
None but him I sought to love  
And I love him true as ever  
I shall love him up above.*

*If you ever speak do tell him  
That in death I prayed for him  
Prayed that I one day might meet him  
In a land that's free from sin  
Tell him that the day he left me  
Life to me was but a blank  
Light, love, hope, joy, it vanished  
Vanished with my darling Frank.<sup>4</sup>*

Annie's body was laid to rest in November of 1882 in a cemetery now hidden from view in a wooded area off Bunker Hill Road a short distance from the house. Annie's ghost was most active when children were around. With the children who then lived in the house grown and her story revealed, the "haunting" ceased and Annie's spirit, nearly 100 years later, was also laid to rest.

**Beverly J. Merrill**  
**Portland, Maine**  
**February 7, 2000**

*(I am a descendant (11th generation from Nathaniel) of Joseph(4) and Mary Palmer Merrill; Daniel(5) and Elsie Leavitt Merrill; Joseph(6) and Eunice Boothby Merrill; Richard(7) and Eunice Livermore Merrill; Martha J. Merrill(8) and Jonathan Millett Cummings (aka Millett Cummings); A. Lincoln Cummings(9) and Ada Lillian Goding; E. Millett Cummings(10) and Chloe F. Hubbard.<sup>5</sup>*

*My friend Karen in Winslow, Maine is a descendant of Joseph(6) and Eunice Boothby Merrill through their son Jonathan(7)<sup>6</sup> and Lil Hall descends from Joseph(6) and Eunice Boothby Merrill through their son Benjamin(7). (I have also located a woman in Friendship, Maine, whose husband descended from Joseph(6).)*

*My husband, Thomas R.(10) Merrill, through his mother, descends from Joseph(4)'s brother Edmond(4) (b 28 March 1715), who married Jane Noyes, was a miller in Falmouth, Maine, and died there on August 2, 1807; (Edmond(5) and Abigail Lord Merrill; Oliver(6) and probably Ann (True?); Samuel(7) and Sarah E. Royal; Harland(8) and Elizabeth Scammon Merrill; Sarah C.(9) and George S.(? ) Merrill<sup>7</sup>*

*I am still searching for my husband's father's line prior to 1794, when another Joseph(?)<sup>8</sup> Merrill was born on August 21, 1794. He married Catharine Berry September 30, 1823, and can be found in census records for about thirty years living in Denmark, Maine; then Lovell, Maine; and in Sebago, Maine, with a daughter, Cynthia Holt, about 1860. Joseph and Catherine had one son who lived to adulthood Stephen(?) who died in 1865 from wounds suffered in the Battle of Hatcher's Run, Virginia, in the Civil War. Stephen married Rebecca R. Blake and one of their children was Henry Wilson Merrill of Hiram, Maine, my husband's grandfather. Anyone out there have any knowledge of this line, particularly the parentage of Joseph?)*

#### **ADDENDUM**

**JOSEPH MERRILL(4) (Daniel (3); Daniel (2); Nathaniel (1))**, the first child of Daniel(3) and Esther Chase Merrill of Newbury and Haverhill, Massachusetts, was born on May 28, 1694. On December 16, 1718, he married **MARY PALMER** in Stratham, New Hampshire. Children of Joseph (4) and Mary Palmer Merrill (5th generation from Nathaniel):

Moses b ca 1718, killed in French and Indian War

Joseph b 14 Dec, 1719 m Mary or Mercy Hall (Newmarket, NH)

DANIEL b 12 December 1721 m (1) Elsie Leavitt (2) Hannah Runnells (Scarborough, ME) Mary b 5 Feb 1723-4 - d 6 Jan 1730-1

Josiah b 7 June 1726 - d 10 May 1745

JAMES b 10 July 1729 d 2 March 1781 m Sarah Ford

Elizabeth b 10 May 1731 17 Aug 1792 m (1) Elisha Leavitt (2) Samuel Leavitt

Molly b 15 July 1736 - d 22 Sept or 1 Aug 1742<sup>9</sup>

Eliphalet b 26 Jan 1737-8 - d 7 Oct 1742

Benjamin b 22 Dec 1739 d 30 Apr 1795 m (1)Anna Robinson (2) Sarah Fifield (Stratham)

After the death of Mary Palmer Merrill on August 21, 1744, Joseph married Charity Rollins, who was born ca 1710, the daughter of Joseph and Lydia Heard Rollins. Their children (still 5th generation from Nathaniel) were:

Mercy b 28 Sept 1746 - baptized in Exeter, NH 28 Dec 1746 - d in Stratham, NH 11 July 1750

Esther b 19 Nov 1748 - d 4 Feb 1817

Hannah b 16 Nov 1753 - d 10 Nov 1758<sup>10</sup>

Records indicate that Joseph(4) died on March 16 or 17, 1771. He is buried in the cemetery behind the Stratham Community Church. A monument containing his name and the names of other family members marks the gravesite.<sup>11</sup>

For this record, we are interested in two of Joseph's and Mary's sons - **DANIEL(5)**, born December 12, 1721, and **JAMES(5)**, born July 10, 1729.

First, **DANIEL(5)**: He married first Elsie Leavitt, born 25 July 1726, the daughter of Benjamin<sup>12</sup> and Elizabeth Leavitt of Stratham. Daniel and Elsie had five children (6th generation from Nathaniel):

Josiah b ca 1745

Eliphalet b ca 1747

Bradbury b 11 May 1749 d 20 Aug 1799 m Anna Baxter (Scarborough, ME)

Joseph b 31 Dec 1750 d 21 Dec 1820 m 2nd Eunice Boothby

**ELIZABETH or BETSEY a/k/a BETTSEY** b 11 Aug 1752 d 28 Aug 1832 - m Ford(6) Merrill<sup>13</sup>

Where Daniel and Elsie lived in Stratham, we do not know, but the record tells us that Elsie died on May 28, 1754, the oldest of their five children, if he was living, being under ten years of age. Sometime thereafter, Daniel married one Hannah Runnells and moved to Scarborough, Maine. It appears that at least some of his and Elsie's children moved with him to Scarborough.<sup>14</sup> Nine children, beginning in 1768, were born to Daniel and Hannah.<sup>15</sup> We have no death date for Daniel(5).

Second, **JAMES(5)**: He married Sarah Ford, who was born in 1733, the daughter of Capt. John and Eleanor Sanborn Ford of Greenland. James(5) and Sarah had eleven children (6th generation from Nathaniel):

**FORD** b 2 Sept 1753 d 11 Nov 1826 m Bettsey(6) Merrill

Asa b 11 Dec 1755 - d 22 Nov 1758

Sarah b 10 May 1758 - d 22 Dec 1759

**Jesse** b June 1760 d 1 Feb 1852 m. Betsey Fifield

Sarah b 9 Dec 1762 - d 3 Apr 1862 - m Simon Pottle

Eliphalet b 7 Apr 1765 d 7 Feb 1853 m. (1)Polly Smith(2) M. Green

**Phinehas** b. 8 July 1767 d 31 Jan 1814 or 15 m Phebe Wiggin

Lucretia b 7 April 1769 - d 8 Apr 1769

Lemuel b 8 May 1770 d 30 Apr 1863 m Hannah Th(w)ing (farmer)

Levi James b 12 Jan 1773 15 July 1847 m Betsy Sawyer

Betsey b 17 Oct 1775 - d 21 Nov 1850 m Sept 1797 John Haines (res. Norridgewock, ME)

James inherited the family home and property. It is to be noted that at the time of his death in 1781, his probate inventory indicated that "James Merrill, late of Stratham in the County of Rockingham and State of New Hampshire, joiner, deceased" owned "21 Acres of land in Stratham @ 100 per acre 105.0.0 ...

Buildings 26.4 ...." Sarah outlived her husband by almost 16 years until June of 1800. Both James' and Sarah's names appear on the same monument with his father, Joseph(4).

On March 30, 1775<sup>16</sup> **FORD(6)**, the son of James(5) and Sarah Ford Merrill, married **BETTSEY(6)**, the daughter of Daniel(5) and Elsie Leavitt Merrill. They were first cousins, the grandchildren of Joseph(4) and Mary Palmer Merrill. A 1793 Map of the Town of Stratham, NH made by one Phinehas Merrill (Ford's brother)<sup>17</sup> indicates the home of Ford Merrill located on the edge of Middle Road (now known as Bunker Hill Avenue) and shows Frying Pan Lane ending before reaching Middle Road.<sup>18</sup> Again, young Merrill feet padded across the floor boards of the 1718 house as Ford and Betsy raised their eight children (the 7th generation from Nathaniel):

Lucretia b 26 Feb 1776, d 9 May 1866 (unmarried)

Sall(e)y b 19 May 1778

Bettsey Leavitt b 321 Aug 1780, d 15 Oct 1857 or 21 June 1860, m. Elisha Chase

ASA (REV) b 10 March 1783 1860

MARY/POLL(E)Y b 12 March 1786, d 27 Dec 1873 (unmarried)

Doll(e)y b 21 Nov 1788, d 7 May 1802

James b 24 July 1791, d 23 Nov 1798

Daniel b 5 May 1796, d 20 April 1797<sup>19</sup>

As noted by the birth and death dates of their children, they, too, experienced some of life's heartache, as well as joys, during their tenure as occupants of the house.<sup>20</sup> Ford died on November 11, 1826 at age 73. His name appears on the monument with his father's and grandfather's.

The **1820** census lists **Ford(6)**, his son Asa(7), and Phebe, the widow of Ford's brother Phinehas(6) as heads of households in Stratham. It can be assumed that **Ford and Elizabeth are still living in the family house** while the others have homes of their own elsewhere.

The **1830** census lists **Elizabeth(6), the widow of Ford**, as a head of household. Their unmarried daughter **Mary/Polly(7) is living with her, presumably in the family house**. Asa(7) (Ford and Elizabeth's son) and Mary Ann(7) (the daughter of Ford's brother Phinehas(6) and Phoebe) are also listed as heads of households in Stratham.

At some point after Ford's death, and perhaps after Betsy's death on October 23, 1832, title to the family home passed to their son, **ASA (REV) (7)**. However, it does not appear that Asa(7) lived in the house as an adult (suggesting perhaps that as clergy he and his family occupied a parsonage), that it is first his mother and sister, and then his sister Mary/Polly(7) who lived there. Perhaps title passed to him as the only living son after his father's death with his mother and his unmarried sister, having life tenancy.<sup>21 22</sup>

The **1840** census lists Asa(7), his son Phinehas(8), his sister **Mary/Polly(7)**, and his cousin Mary Ann(7) (daughter of Phinehas(6) and Phebe Merrill) as heads of households. It can be presumed that **Mary/Polly is still the occupant of the family home**.

The **1850** census lists Asa(7) and his wife living alone; his son Phinehas(8) is then listed in Hanover, New Hampshire. Asa's sister **Mary/Polly(7)** is again listed as a head of household. At this point, **Mary/Polly's household (presumably living in the house) includes her cousin Levi(7)** (age 54), his wife, Susanna (age 50), and children, Jesse (age 25), Lemuel (age 19) and Sarah F. (age 3). (*Note: Levi(7)(b ca 1796) is the son Ford's brother, Jesse(6).*)

The **1860** census finds Asa(7) living with his son, Phinehas(8), who is back in Stratham. Sometime after the census was taken in 1860, Asa(7) died and his name appears on the family monument in Stratham as Asa (Rev.) Merrill. The census lists Levi(7) as a separate head of household. His son Jesse's

household is listed as **Jesse(8)** (age 35), his wife Irena (age 42), his daughters Martha A and Mary E (age 6) and Leah (age 3). **Mary, presumably Mary/Polly(7) (age 74), is also listed as part of Jesse's household living in the family home.** It appears from the record that Mary/Polly had occupied her parents' (grandparents' and great grandparents') home throughout her life. So in 1860, perhaps due to Mary/Polly's advancing age, we find a new head of household and the family home occupied by still another generation of Merrills - Ford's brother Jesse's grandson, and his family, the great and great-great grandchildren of Joseph and Mary.

The **1870** census finds **Jesse** (age 44), his wife Irena (age 51), their daughters Mary E (age 15), Leah (age 12), and **Annie (age 8) living in the family home.**<sup>23 24</sup>

Footnotes:

1. For further detail see attached Addendum.
2. Further research in the Registry of Deeds would be needed to determine title to the real estate between Jesse(8) and the Connerys.
3. One wonders if he was looking for his daughter because, while away, he had heard things he did not like and in anger wanted to confront her. If so, how much more this must have added to his pain upon finding her hanging in the woodshed. It is interesting to note that in her suicide note/poem she does not mention her father, only her sisters, her mother, and her "love."
4. Information taken from newspaper articles as follows: ? and *Bordertown News* dated December 1, 1976 - article entitled "Where the spirit of Annie Merrill lives" by James Kearney; *Atlantic News* dated November 10, 1987 - article entitled "Annie Merrill's Spirit Finally at Peace" by Bonnie Meroth; *New Hampshire Seacoast* Sunday, October 30, 1988 - article entitled "Ghosts;" *Atlantic News*, October 17, 1989 - article entitled "The Ghost of Annie Merrill Now Rests in Peace" by Bonnie Meroth.
5. Joseph and Eunice, Richard and Eunice, Martha and Millett, Lincoln and Ada, Millett and his son are all buried on the River Road in Livermore, Maine.
6. Jonathan is buried on the River Road in Livermore, Maine.
7. Edmond and Jane are probably buried in Falmouth, Maine; Edmond and Abigail are buried in the Congregational Church Cemetery in Cumberland, Maine; Samuel and Sarah are buried with the Royal Family (no stones) in Yarmouth, Maine, on the banks of the Royal River; Harland and Elizabeth Scammon Merrill Fish are also buried there; Sarah and George in Brooklawn Cemetery in Portland, Maine.
8. Stephen and Rebecca are buried in South Bridgton, Maine. Henry is buried in Denmark with his second wife. Mabelle is buried in an unmarked grave in Hiram, Maine.
9. It is to be noted that in 1742 Stratham was hit by an epidemic which had been troubling the New England area for several years, killing many, especially children. An article entitled "Throat Distemper" by Richard M. Scammon can be found on page 14 of the *History of Stratham, NH*. On page 104, it says: "All through the closing months of 1742, the work of the plague continued. Family after family were stricken ... Joseph Merrill lost three, ..." However, only 2 appear here with a 1742 death date. Perhaps one of the two death dates attributed here to Molly belongs to another child not listed.
10. See pages 62, 163 and 164 of Virginia T. Merrill's *Merrill in America Volume 1 The first Four generations*.
11. *The History of Stratham, NH*, on pages 114 and 115 says that the new Meeting House was completed in 1718 and that its pews were "'built with winscot worke and all of a kind'" - "Each man was obliged to build his own pew, keep it in repair, to maintain all the glass against it, and he must build, too, on the spot assigned him." It notes that Jo Merrill was assigned to the "Second front gallery." I do not know if the cemetery wherein Joseph is buried is at the site of the first meeting house. It is a point to be looked into. Joseph is also mentioned again on page 246, where some records of the town clerk are listed stating

that on March 25, 1742 "John Wiggin chosen constable and he paid his fine ... Joseph Merrill chosen and paid his fine. ... Joseph Hill chosen and served."

12. The *History of Stratham, NH* says that "One-armed Ben Leavitt [Elsie's father] probably set up the first tavern in town. ... On plea of his missing limb, he secured permission from the government in 1719 to sell liquor without a license. He occupied himself variously as a tavern-keeper, selectman, schoolmaster, etc." P. 39 On p. 93, it is stated that a certain townsman "never was admitted to the order of selectmen who used to sit around the fireplace in one-armed Ben Leavitt's tavern and drink flip while they dicussed town affairs, for two shillings per day.

13. See Page 163, 286, and 287 of Virginia T. Merrill's *Merrill in America Volume 2 Generations Five and Six*.

14. His son Joseph married Eunice Boothby at First Church in Pepperellborough (now Saco), Maine, on May 2, 1776 (his first wife and a son having died in 1775). They are found in the census there as late as 1790. Joseph, who is listed as a Revolutionary War Veteran, thereafter moved his family to Livermore, Maine, where he is found in the 1800 census and died in 1820. Both Joseph and Eunice are buried in the cemetery on the River Road in Livermore. Eliphalet and Bradbury appear in the census records in Scarborough, Maine at that time.

15. Levi b. ca 1768; Daniel b ca 1770-d in old age, unmarried; Polly b ca 1772-d in infancy; Charity b 1774, unmarried, res with brother Daniel; Sally b 17 Oct 1776; Josiah b ca 1778; Mary b ca 1780, Ada b ca 1783; Jonathan b ca 1784

16. Note that it is this generation of Merrills that witnessed the birth of the United States of America.

17. In the *History of Stratham, NH*, the section on "Schools," on page 204, it is stated that "There have been other men of note among our teachers, such as Phineas Merrill, the surveyor and author, ...." On page 206, it states that "At the annual meeting in 1809, Nathan Wiggin, Phineas Merrill, and George Wingate, were chosen a committee to inspect the schools ... the first board of superintending school Committee ...." On pages 300-301, it states: "Phineas Merrill, Esq. was perhaps in his day one of the most useful and eminent men that this town has produced, born in 1767. He was representative several years, and for many years town clerk and one of the selectmen. Widely known as civil engineer, his surveys of land are pronounced by modern surveyors as very accurate. He taught all the schools in town for a good many years, was the author of a series of arithmetics, published a map of the town in 1793; also about 1800, a map of Exeter and a map of the state. A very accomplished penman, specimens of his work with the pen compare favorably with the best."

18. Other Merrill households indicated on that map are E Merrill and B Merrill across the road and further away on Winniconnet Road is Jof Merrill. It appears that these could not be Daniel(5) and Elsie's sons, Eliphalet, Bradbury, and Joseph, because they are listed in the census in Maine by that time. See FN 6. The reference to Eliphalet in the *History of Stratham, NH*, on page 275, in an article on Libraries which talks about the establishment of "association libraries," the first being organized on "December 10, 1793 by Nathan Wiggin, Eliphalet Merrill, John Dearborn, and 17 others" refers to James' (5) son Eliphalet(6). According to Virginia T. Merrill's *Merrill in America Volume 2 Generations Five and Six*, James' son Eliphalet, who helped organize the library, moved to Deerfield and Northwood, NH where he was ordained as the second pastor of the First Baptist Church in 1804 and retired from that church in 1828. He and his brother Phinehas compiled a *Gazeteer* in New Hampshire in 1817. Pages 288 and 289.

19. See page 288 of Virginia T. Merrill's *Merrill in America Volume 2 Generation Five and Six*.

20. The *History of Stratham, NH* on page 124 notes the incorporation of the Congregational Society in 1814 and on page 125 Ford Merrill is listed as one of those who petitioned the State for its charter.

21. Further research in the Registry of Deeds would be needed to determine this title matter.

22. References to Asa in the *History of Stratham, NH* are as follows: In talking about "The Plains Meeting House," it is said that "The only pastor of this parish whose records have been preserved was one Rev. Asa Merrill who owned the place on Bunker Hill Avenue where Scigliano now lives. This was also known as the Bowley's farm at one time. The Elder Merrill was considered a good preacher and must have been here for many years. A record of deaths he kept covers a period from 1786 to 1859." On page 214, his name appears as a signer of a petition on March 27, 1845 requesting that the "Town of Stratham

may be divided into legal School Districts, according to the provisions prescribed in the Revised Statutes of N.H." In the "Extracts from Early Town Journals," on pages 253, dated 1827, it says "Gave in Asa Merrill's poll tax, he being an ordained minister."

23. This census shows the only other Merrills left in Stratham at that time are two elderly spinsters living together and Asa's son Phinehas(8)(age 56), his wife Abigail and daughter Lizza J.

24. My thanks to Howard and Jean Merrill for the census data and the lineage of Annie Merrill.

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## Merrill Bible Found

Reza Iravani wrote: " I have a bible belonging to the Merrill family. It was given to Alice Merrill by her grandmother Emilie E. Merrill. Alice married Albert Eugene Clewley in 1933. It has notations on the following Merrills: George B b. 1861; Virginia b. 1885; Prudence b. 1885; Leonard b. 1890; Leslie b. 1893; Harold b. 1900; Lloyd b. 1917.

"There is a certificate of marriage for George B. Merrill who married Amelia Morgan in 1884 in "Bradley". The bible itself is quite large with silver like clasps and a large leather carved cover.

"The bible itself was published in Boston, Mass. I was wondering if you know of any living relatives who would like to have this bible returned to them."

Howard and Jean's reply: "We think we have identified the George B mentioned as George B (7), Asa (6), Samuel (5), Enoch (4), Joseph (3), Abel (2), immigrant Nathaniel (1) [1601-1654]. We found George, 8, with his parents in the 1870 census in Orono ME.

The m., 1884 July 3 in Bradley ME, of George and Amelia Morgan is listed in the ME vital records as well as the births of most of the listed children. We feel that the Emilie E Merrill who gave the bible must be Amelia E (Morgan) Merrill and Alice must be Alice Elizabeth, b. 1914 Sept 14 in Brewer ME, daughter of Leonard Calvin [1890 Mar 6] and Elizabeth E Ladd [ME vital records]."

If you are closely related to this Merrill family, and would like to have this Bible, please contact Reza Iravani. Her e-mail address is: [reza.iravani@utoronto.ca](mailto:reza.iravani@utoronto.ca).

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# Descendants of Barzilla MERRILL

Contributed By

Barbara van Vlack  
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The first three (3) generations

**Barzilla was the son of David MERRILL and Esther HOWE. David was born March 30, 1738 in Waterbury, CT, son of Nathaniel MERRILL and Esther WARNER. David's wife, Esther HOWE, was born March 4, 1744 in Wallingford, CT, daughter of Jeremiah HOWE and Elizabeth GAYLORD.**

## First Generation

1. **Barzilla MERRILL** was born 17 Nov 1764 in Goshen, CT. He died 14 Apr 1850 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY and was buried in Stockham Hill Cem., Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.

Barzilla married **Electa WILMOT/WILMOTT/WILMONT**. Electa was born 3 Jun 1770 in Waterbury, New Haven, CT. She died 4 Aug 1840 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY and was buried in Stockham Hill Cem., Onondaga Co., NY.

They had the following children:

- + 2 F i [Diantha MERRILL](#) was born 17 Sep 1788 and died 21 Oct 1868.
- + 3 M ii [Heman MERRILL](#) was born 27 Mar 1791 and died 1 Jun 1871.
- + 4 M iii [Anson C. MERRILL](#) was born 8 Apr 1793 and died 26 Jan 1870.
- 5 M iv **Ira MERRILL** was born 23 Sep 1793. He died 6 Jul 1868 and was buried in Old Village Cem., Village of Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.
- + 6 M v [Silas MERRILL](#) was born 27 Nov 1797 and died 28 Dec 1827.
- + 7 F vi [Emma MERRILL](#) was born 8 Apr 1800 and died 12 Feb 1841.
- + 8 F vii [Ruth MERRILL](#) was born 11 Jul 1802 and died 24 Jun 1832.
- + 9 M viii [Edward MERRILL](#) was born 19 Jul 1805 and died 12 Oct 1852.
- 10 F ix **Esther MERRILL** was born 29 Nov 1807. She died 13 Apr 1829 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY and was buried in Stockham Hill Cem., Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.

Esther married **Alfred NEGUS**.

11 F x **Mary MERRILL** was born 18 Sep 1810 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY. She died 7 Jun 1896 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY and was buried in Evergreen Cem., Town of Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.

Mary married **Albert G. BACON** on 13 Jan 1831 in prob. Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.

+ 12 M xi [David M. MERRILL](#) was born 4 Jun 1815 and died 4 Feb 1881.

[Next Generation](#) | [Last Generation](#)

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## Descendants of Barzilla MERRILL

### Second Generation

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2. [Diantha MERRILL](#) ([Barzilla](#)) was born 17 Sep 1788. She died 21 Oct 1868.

Diantha married **Luke PIERCE**. Luke died 15 Sep 1856.

They had the following children:

- + 13 M i [Caleb M. PIERCE](#) was born 9 Apr 1811 and died 18 Aug 1891.
- 14 F ii **Euretta E. PIERCE** was born 2 Oct 1812 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.
- 15 M iii **Washington S. PIERCE** was born 29 Aug 1816 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.
- 16 M iv **Daniel S. PIERCE** was born 3 Sep 1818 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.
- 17 M v **Barzilla PIERCE** was born 10 Jun 1820 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.
- 18 F vi **Lovina PIERCE** was born 30 Oct 1822 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.
- + 19 F vii [Polly PIERCE](#) was born 24 Sep 1824.
- + 20 M viii [Silas L. PIERCE](#) was born 20 Dec 1829 and died 30 Dec 1901.
- 21 F ix **Electa PIERCE** was born 19 Apr 1815 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.

3. [Heman MERRILL](#) ([Barzilla](#)) was born 27 Mar 1791 in prob. Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY. He died 1 Jun 1871 in Dayton, NY and was buried in Cottage Cemetery, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Heman married **Amelia HAWKINS**. Amelia died 16 Jan 1865 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

They had the following children:

- 22 F i **Maryette M. MERRILL** was born 13 Aug 1812. She died 4 Jun 1813.
- + 23 F ii [Juliette MERRILL](#) was born 5 Mar 1814 and died 27 Sep 1854.
- + 24 M iii [Leonard MERRILL](#) was born 3 Feb 1816 and died 9 Aug 1899.
- + 25 M iv [Barzilla MERRILL](#) was born 29 Mar 1818 and died 2 May 1863.
- + 26 F v [Emily MERRILL](#) was born 1 Mar 1820 and died 25 May 1900.
- + 27 F vi [Mercy MERRILL](#) was born 4 Jun 1822.

- 28 F vii **Eliza MERRILL** was born 16 Aug 1824. She died 5 Jul 1828 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.
- + 29 F viii [Huldah H. MERRILL](#) was born 5 Mar 1827 and died 1913.
- + 30 M ix [Silas H. MERRILL](#) was born 28 Jul 1830 and died 29 Dec 1876.
- 31 F x **Celestia MERRILL** was born 19 Sep 1832. She died 30 Apr 1833 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.
- + 32 M xi [Edward A. MERRILL](#) was born 28 May 1834 and died 1868.
- + 33 M xii [Heman Resign MERRILL](#) was born 2 Feb 1836 and died 1913.

4. [Anson C. MERRILL](#) ([Barzilla](#)) was born 8 Apr 1793. He died 26 Jan 1870 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Anson married **Bethany ELMS**. Bethany was born about 1796/1797. She died 26 Feb 1880 in Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

They had the following children:

- + 34 F i [Mary Ann MERRILL](#) was born 7 Jun 1817 and died 12 Oct 1887.
- 35 F ii **Electa MERRILL** was born 5 Apr 1819. She died 18 Aug 1838 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.
- 36 M iii **Ira MERRILL** was born 17 May 1821 in Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 23 Mar 1823.
- + 37 F iv [Ruth MERRILL](#) was born 8 Sep 1824.
- 38 M v **Ira MERRILL** was born 2 Feb 1827 in Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 30 Nov 1852 in prob. Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.  
Ira married **Ellen DARBY** on 14 Nov 1850 in Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. Ellen died 14 Jan 1899.
- 39 F vi **Esther M. MERRILL** was born 2 May 1829 in Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. She died 23 Apr 1853 in Hamburg, Erie Co., NY.  
Esther married **Alexander HUNT**.
- + 40 M vii [David MERRILL](#) was born 5 Apr 1831 and died 7 May 1874.
- + 41 M viii [Albert J. MERRILL](#) was born 23 Jul 1833 and died 25 Nov 1884.

6. [Silas MERRILL](#) ([Barzilla](#)) was born 27 Nov 1797 in Fabius, Onondaga County, NY. He died 28 Dec 1827 in Cuba, NY.

Silas married **Lucinda MOREY**, daughter of Samuel MOREY and Mary FREEMAN, on 26 Oct 1818. Lucinda was born 26 Oct 1800. She died 6 Mar 1879.

They had the following children:

+ 42 F i **Polly MERRILL** was born 9 Aug 1819 and died 31 Mar 1903.

43 F ii **Mary MERRILL**.

Mary married **William STEARNS**.

44 M iii **Ira MERRILL**.

Ira married **Elizabeth CONKEY**.

45 M iv **Silas R. MERRILL** was born 16 Feb 1818 in Cuba, NY.

Silas married (1) **Ann Amanda CLEVELAND** on 15 Feb 1855.

Silas also married (2) **Adah Angeline CLEVELAND** on 19 Oct 1864.

Silas also married (3) \_\_\_\_\_ **UNKNOWN**.

7. **Emma MERRILL** (**Barzilla**) was born 8 Apr 1800. She died 12 Feb 1841.

Emma married **Milo LEWIS**.

They had the following children:

46 F i **Lucia LEWIS**.

Lucia married (1) **Heman YALE**.

Lucia also married (2) \_\_\_\_\_ **STUART**.

47 F ii **Emma LEWIS** died 19 Dec 1849.

8. **Ruth MERRILL** (**Barzilla**) was born 11 Jul 1802. She died 24 Jun 1832 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY and was buried in Stockham Hill Cem., Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.

Ruth married **Henry Keeney WEBSTER Dr.** on 21 Jun 1826 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY. Henry was born 25 Nov 1800.

They had the following children:

48 F i **Ruth WEBSTER**.

Ruth married **Riley GRAVES**.

9. [Edward MERRILL](#) ([Barzilla](#)) was born 19 Jul 1805. He died 12 Oct 1852 and was buried in Stockham Hill Cem., Town of Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.

Edward married **Helen CONKLIN**.

They had the following children:

+ 49 M i  
[William MERRILL II](#).

12. [David M. MERRILL](#) ([Barzilla](#)) was born 4 Jun 1815. He died 4 Feb 1881 in North East, PA.

David married **Deborah WALLIS** on 17 Oct 1838. Deborah was born 22 Apr 1820. She died 15 Mar 1907.

They had the following children:

50 M i **Wallis E. MERRILL** was born 12 Nov 1841. He died 19 Mar 1847.

51 F ii **Maria J. MERRILL** was born 8 Aug 1843. She died 1914 and was buried in Evergreen Cem., Town of Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.

Maria married **Byron D. ? BRAMER**.

52 M iii **Edward W. MERRILL** was born 20 Sep 1850.

53 F iv **Evangeline A. MERRILL** was born 16 May 1855.

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## Descendants of Barzilla MERRILL

### Third Generation

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13. [Caleb M. PIERCE](#) ([Diantha MERRILL](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 9 Apr 1811 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY. He died 18 Aug 1891.

Caleb married (1) **Nancy SCHERMERHORN** on 31 Dec 1835.

They had the following children:

54 M i **Ira M. PIERCE** was born 25 Sep 1836. He died 23 Sep 1874.

Ira married **Lorinda DAVIS** in Cuba, NY.

55 M ii **David J. PIERCE** was born 18 Feb 1842. He died in Bradford, PA.

David married **Lucy J. COON** in Dayton, NY.

Caleb also married (2) **Ellen DARBY** on 27 May 1858/1859. Ellen died 14 Jan 1899.

They had the following children:

56 F iii **Grace DARBEE** was born 25 Dec 1867.

Grace married **Bert PERRIN** on 26 Sep 1893.

19. [Polly PIERCE](#) ([Diantha MERRILL](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 24 Sep 1824 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.

Polly married **George HIBNER** on 15 Jul 1847.

They had the following children:

57 F i **Electa HIBNER** was born 1 Mar 1849.

Electa married **William STAFFORD** on 13 Sep 1866.

58 M ii **Ivan A. HIBNER** was born 23 Dec 1854. He died 19 Nov 1876.

Ivan married **Effie FREER** on 20 Oct 1873.

20. [Silas L. PIERCE](#) ([Diantha MERRILL](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 20 Dec 1829. He died 30 Dec 1901.

Silas married **Nancy PURINTON** on 9 Oct 1857.

They had the following children:

59 F i **Dora PIERCE** was born 9 Oct 1861.

Dora married **Forest L. MILLER** on 16 Jun 1880.

23. **Juliette MERRILL** ([Heman](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 5 Mar 1814 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY. She died 27 Sep 1854 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Juliette married **Samuel D. COLE** on 27 Sep 1842.

They had the following children:

60 M i **Milo D. COLE** was born 24 Nov 1842.

Milo married **Betsy E. PARK** on 11 Sep 1864.

24. **Leonard MERRILL** ([Heman](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 3 Feb 1816 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY. He died 9 Aug 1899 in Perrysburg, Cattaraugus Co., NY and was buried in Rathbun Lawn Cemetery, Irving, Chautauqua Co., NY.

Leonard married **Eliza JUDD**, daughter of Asa JUDD and Betsey REED/RUEL, on 9 Mar 1837 in Versailles, Cattaraugus Co., NY. Eliza was born about 21 Jan 1815. She died 21 Sep 1887 in Versailles, Cattaraugus Co., NY and was buried in Rathbun Lawn Cemetery, Irving, Chautauqua Co., NY.

They had the following children:

61 M i **Heman J. MERRILL** was born 17 Apr 1838 in Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 1913 and was buried in Rathbun Lawn Cemetery, Irving, Chautauqua Co., NY.

Heman married (1) **Charlotte J. BEBEE** on 3 Jan 1860. Charlotte was born 1840. She died 1877 in Perrysburg, Cattaraugus Co., NY and was buried in Rathbun Lawn Cemetery, Irving, Chautauqua Co., NY.

Heman also married (2) **Agnes M. FREEMAN** on 22 Mar 1883. Agnes died 28 Feb 1905.

62 M ii **Wilbur/Wilber H. MERRILL** was born 18 Jun 1840 in Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 1925 and was buried in Rathbun Lawn Cem., Irving, Chautauqua Co., NY.

Wilbur/Wilber married **Almira H. WELLS**, daughter of Luther WELLS, on 8 Nov 1865 in Forestville, NY.

63 F iii **Jane MERRILL** was born 28 May 1843 in Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Jane married **Alonzo WATERMAN** on 2 Oct 1866 in Silver Creek, Chautauqua Co., NY. Alonzo was born in Perrysburg, Town of Perrysburg, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

64 M iv **Adelbert A. MERRILL** was born 29 Jul 1845. He died 1945 and was buried in Rathbun Lawn Cem., Irving, Chautauqua Co., NY.

Adelbert married **Malvina HUGABOOM** on 9 Mar 1869 in Forestville, NY. Malvina was born 1839. She died 1929 and was buried in Rathbun Lawn Cem., Irving, Chautauqua Co., NY.

65 F v **Mariette Amelia MERRILL** was born 15 Jul 1847 in Dayton, NY. She died 4 May 1920 and was buried in Rathbun Cem., Irving, Chautauqua Co., NY.

Mariette married **George Washington VAN VLACK** on 8 Nov 1865 in Forestville, Chautauqua Co., NY. George was born 2 May 1839 in Versailles, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 21 Feb 1917 in Perrysburg, Cattaraugus Co., NY and was buried in Rathbun Cem., Irving, Chautauqua Co., NY.

66 M vi **William W. MERRILL** was born 4 Apr 1851 in Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 1931 and was buried in Rathbun Lawn Cem., Irving, Chautauqua Co., NY.

William married **Harriet M. REMINGTON**, daughter of Seth REMINGTON and Mary WEBSTER, on 3 Jul 1871 in Versailles, Town of Perrysburg, Cattaraugus Co., NY. Harriet was born 10 May 1854 in W. Henrietta, NY. She died 11 Sep 1921 and was buried in Rathbun Lawn Cem., Irving, Chautauqua Co., NY.

25. **Barzilla MERRILL** ([Heman](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 29 Mar 1818 in Dayton, Town of Perrysburg, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 2 May 1863 in Chancellorsville, VA and was buried in battlefield, Chancellorsville, VA. There is a memorial stone for him in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Barzilla married **Ruba C. COLE**, daughter of Alva COLE, on 28 Feb 1839. Ruba was born 1816. She died 1 Nov 1897 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

They had the following children:

67 M i **Eber W. MERRILL** was born 1840. He died 1841 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

68 F ii **Achsah E. MERRILL** was born 1841. She died 1842 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

69 F iii **Nancy MERRILL** was born 12 Oct 1843. She died 1918 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

70 M iv **Alva D. MERRILL** was born 8 Mar 1845. He died 3 May 1863 in Chancellorsville, VA and was buried in battlefield, Chancellorsville. There is a memorial stone for him in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

71 M v **Irving MERRILL** was born 20 Oct 1850. He died 1932 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Irving married **Eva A. SHULTS** on 3 Oct 1871. Eva was born 1853. She died 1930 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

26. **Emily MERRILL** ([Heman](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 1 Mar 1820 in Tow of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. She died 25 May 1900 in Huntley, Faribault, MN.

Emily married **Charles PARKE/PARK** on 27 Apr 1837 in Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. Charles was born 5 Nov 1813 in Chenango Co., NY. He died 27 Feb 1901 in Center Creek Township, Martin, MN and was buried in Center Creek Cemetery.

They had the following children:

72 M i **Avery PARK** was born 7 Jun 1838 in Wesley, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 16 Feb 1913 in Center Creek Township, Martin, MN and was buried 19 Feb 1913 in Center Creek Cemetery.

Avery married **Sarah Bliss Spencer STILLMAN** on 18 Dec 1867.

73 M ii **Walter H. PARK** was born 6 Oct 1840 in Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 13 Jun 1860 in Center Creek Township, Martin County, Minnesota and was buried in Center Creek Cemetery.

74 M iii **Franklin Leonard PARK** was born 6 Apr 1842 in Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 22 Apr 1927 in Yakima, WA and was buried in Yakima, WA.

Franklin married **Amanda AYERS**.

75 F iv **Amelia Beatrice PARK** was born 7 Feb 1846 in Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. She died 6 Jun 1879 in Center Creek Township, Martin, MN and was buried in Center Creek Cemetery.

Amelia married **A.M. FANCHER**.

76 F v **Mary PARK** was born 12 Sep 1848 in Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. She died 26 Jan 1926 in Winnebago, Faribault, MN and was buried in Center Creek Cemetery.

Mary married \_\_\_\_\_ **MCKINNEY**.

77 M vi **Judson PARK** was born 1 Oct 1853 in Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 29 Sep 1914 in Winnebago, Faribault, MN and was buried 1 Oct 1914 in Center Creek Cemetery.

Judson married **Jennie HODGMAN** on 1 Jan 1874.

78 M vii **Merrill PARK** was born 14 Nov 1855 in Rosendale, WI. He died Dec 1855 in Rosendale, WI and was buried in Wisconsin.

79 M viii **Marshall PARK** was born 14 Nov 1855 in Rosendale, WI. He died Feb 1856 in Rosendale, WI and was buried in Wisconsin.

80 M ix **Heman M. PARK** "Heem" was born 14 Mar 1856 in Rosendale, WI. He died 20 Nov 1924 in Granada, Martin, MN and was buried 24 Nov 1924 in Center Creek Cemetery.

81 M x **Otis Eugene PARK** was born 11 Jun 1862 in Martin County, Minnesota (near Winnebago City). He died 19 Dec 1916 in Granada, martin, MN and was buried in Center Creek Cemetery.

27. [Mercy MERRILL](#) ([Heman](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 4 Jun 1822 in Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Mercy married **Orsman MARKHAM** on 14 Feb 1841.

They had the following children:

82 F i **Ann Eliza MARKHAM** was born in Dayton, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

83 M ii **Solon MARKHAM** was born 22 Apr 1842 in Dayton, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Solon married **Elizabeth Ann GREGG** on 26 Nov 1868.

84 M iii **Eugene MARKHAM** was born 2 Jul 1844.

Eugene married **Sarah Jane TEE** on 22 Oct 1865.

85 M iv **Henry J. MARKHAM** was born 4 May 1850.

Henry married **Emma MYERS** on 29 Dec 1870.

29. [Huldah H. MERRILL](#) ([Heman](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 5 Mar 1827 in Town of Perrysburg, Cattaraugus Co., NY. She died 1913 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Huldah married **Hon. Norman Milton ALLEN**, son of Luther Allen ALLEN Sr and Huldah BENEDICT, on 7 Mar 1848 in prob. Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. Norman was born 24 Dec 1828. He died 1909 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

They had the following children:

86 F i **Mary Agatha Florette ALLEN** was born 20 Apr 1849 in Dayton, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. She died 2 Sep 1914 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Mary married **Hon. Winfield Scott THRASHER**, son of Samuel P. THRASHER and Ann HANES, on 16 Nov 1869 in Gowanda, Cattaraugus Co., NY. Winfield was born 5 May 1847 in Cornish, NH. He died 1911 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

87 F ii **Kate C.E. ALLEN** was born 27 Jul 1853. She died 1888 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Kate married **William Wallace BRAND**, son of Henry Clinton BRAND and Sarah HOWARD, on 27 Jul 1871. William was born 5 May 1849 in Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 15 Oct 1899 in Bradford, PA and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

88 M iii **Milton ALLEN** was born 15 Jun 1856. He died 25 Jun 1856 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

89 M iv **Carlton W. ALLEN** was born 5 Jan 1858.

90 M v **Hoyt M. ALLEN** was born 23 Oct 1863. He died 12 Oct 1892.

Hoyt married (1) **Bell E. HOWLAND** on Aug 1883. Bell died 10 May 1889.

Hoyt also married (2) **Nellie L. SMITH** on 27 Feb 1890.

30. [Silas H. MERRILL](#) ([Heman](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 28 Jul 1830. He died 29 Dec 1876 in Asthtabula, OH and was buried in Asthtabula, OH.

Silas married **Maria J. MARSHALL** on 23 Sep 1851 in prob. North East, PA. Maria was born 1830 in prob. North East, PA. She died 1912 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Cottage, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co, NY.

They had the following children:

91 M i **Ara N. MERRILL** was born 30 Nov 1852.

Ara married (1) **Hortie GREENMAN** on 12 Jan 1874.

Ara also married (2) **Addie C. BAKER** before 1887.

92 F ii **Martha I. MERRILL** "Mattie" was born 10 Oct 1854 in prob. North East, PA. She died 22 Apr 1899 in Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Mattie married **Marcus J. RHODES** on 10 Oct 1872. Marcus was born 1854. He died 1936 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

32. [Edward A. MERRILL](#) ([Heman](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 28 May 1834. He died 1868 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Edward married **Margaret M. MARSHALL** on 6 Dec 1854. Margaret was born 1863. She died 1893 and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

They had the following children:

93 i **infant MERRILL**.

94 M ii **Marshall H. MERRILL** was born 23 Feb 1856 in North East, PA. He died 16 Apr 1898 in Conneaut, OH and was buried in Cottage Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Marshall married **E. May BLAISDELL**, daughter of Daniel BLAISDELL and Elizabeth SHEPARD, on 12 Apr 1882.

95 F iii **Mary I. MERRILL** was born 30 Aug 1857.

Mary married **Frank L. BLAISDELL**, son of Daniel BLAISDELL and Elizabeth SHEPARD, on 3 Sep 1874.

96 F iv **Jennie M. MERRILL** was born 4 Feb 1864 in North East, PA.

97 M v **George E. MERRILL** was born 6 Dec 1866.

George married **Abbie E. LATTIN** on 6 Jun 1894.

33. [Heman Resign MERRILL](#) ([Heman](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 2 Feb 1836 in Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 1913 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Heman married **Lydia M. DAY** on 1 Apr 1855. Lydia was born 1838. She died 1909 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

They had the following children:

98 M i **Lewis N. MERRILL** was born 10 Apr 1856.

Lewis married **Eliza CAIN** on Aug 1883.

99 M ii **Elmer Clarence MERRILL** was born 2 Sep 1857.

Elmer married **Rose Hannah DEWEY** on 4 Jul 1881. Rose was born 1859 in NY.

100 F iii **Josephine MERRILL** was born 14 Mar 1859. She died 10 Feb 1931 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Josephine married **Wilbur/Wilber J. HURD** on 22 Nov 1881.

Wilbur/Wilber was born 15 Mar 1857. He died 22 Feb 1934 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

101 M iv **Scott B. MERRILL** was born 5 Sep 1862. He died 1934 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

102 F v **Rose A. MERRILL** was born 10 Nov 1868.

103 F vi **Laura C. MERRILL** was born 24 Aug 1870. She died 1941 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

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## Descendants of Barzilla MERRILL

### Third Generation

(Continued)

34. [Mary Ann MERRILL](#) ([Anson C.](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 7 Jun 1817. She died 12 Oct 1887 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Mary married **Darius MARKHAM**. Darius was born 24 Nov 1810. He died 23 Oct 1888 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

They had the following children:

104 F i **Electa MARKHAM** was born Jan. 11, 183\_. She died 25 May 1890.

Electa married **James FLUKER** on May 1855.

105 F ii **Ellen C. MARKHAM** was born 6 Apr 1839. She died 1923 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Ellen married **David T. MILLS** on 3 Jul 1856. David was born 1834. He died 1904 and was buried in Markham Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

106 F iii **Matilda MARKHAM** was born about 7 Jan 1841. She died 10 Feb 1841 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

107 F iv **Ruth A. MARKHAM** was born 11 Apr 1841.

Ruth married **Charles N. WRIGHT** on 11 Jan 1863. Charles died 7 Jun 1900.

108 F v **Emma MARKHAM** was born 23 Mar 1842.

Emma married **William W. REMINGTON** on 16 Jun 1861.

109 F vi **Augusta MARKHAM** was born 20 Jan 1846. She died 11 Mar 1907.

Augusta married **Garrett REMINGTON** on 14 Jul 1861.

110 F vii **Mary MARKHAM** was born 1847. She died 4 Jul 1885 and was buried in Markham Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Mary married **Andrew J. EDICK** on Feb 1869. Andrew was born 1842. He died 1901 and was buried in Markham Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

111 M viii **Harvey MARKHAM** was born 8 May 1851 in Markham, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 1924 and was buried in Markham Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Harvey married **Rose A. HALL** on 24 Dec 1879 in Villenova, Chautauqua Co., NY. Rose was born 1862. She died 1955 and was buried in Markham Cem., Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

112 F ix **Hannah A. MARKHAM** was born about Jun 1855. She died 8 Jul 1864 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

113 M x **Homer J.R. MARKHAM** was born about 1859. He died 23 Jul 1864 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

37. [Ruth MERRILL](#) ([Anson C.](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 8 Sep 1824 in Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Ruth married **Homer J. REDFIELD**, son of Reuben REDFIELD and Elizabeth JOCELYN/JOSSELYN, on 17 Sep 1844 in Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. Homer was born about 1806 in Vermont. He was buried in Eden Cemetery, Eden, Erie Co., NY.

They had the following children:

114 M i **Merrill C. REDFIELD** was born 26 Dec 1848 in Eden, NY. He died 1918.

Merrill married **Ella M. ANSLEY** on 18 Jan 1882.

115 F ii **Florence M. REDFIELD** was born 10 Nov 1854.

Florence married **Newton MCLAUREY** on 28 Aug 1878. Newton died 20 Mar 1884 and was buried in Eden Cem., Eden, Erie Co., NY.

116 F iii **Mary Elizabeth REDFIELD** was born 15 Apr 1860. She died about 1888 in Eden, Erie Co., NY and was buried in Eden Cem., Erie Co., NY.

40. [David MERRILL](#) ([Anson C.](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 5 Apr 1831 in Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY. He died 7 May 1874.

David married **Margaret MCMILLEN** on 7 Apr 183.

They had the following children:

117 M i **Albert M. MERRILL** was born 15 Jun 1854.

Albert married **Emma W. DAVIS**.

41. [Albert J. MERRILL](#) ([Anson C.](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 23 Jul 1833. He died 25 Nov 1884.

Albert married (1) **Nancy B. BLAKELY** on 31 Dec 1857. Nancy was born about 1836. She died 28 Jan 1874 and was buried in Markham Cem, Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

They had the following children:

118 M i **Willie MERRILL** was born 17 Aug 1859. He died 1937 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Willie married **Hattie J. DUTTON**, daughter of Nelson DUTTON, on 28 Feb 1900. Hattie was born 1871. She died 1966/1967 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

119 F ii **Esma Corene MERRILL** was born 25 Jul 1867. She died 14 Sep 1868 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

120 F iii **Minnie B. MERRILL** was born 23 Jul 1871. She died 4 Apr 1904.

Minnie married **Clyde INNMAN** on 25 Jan 1892.

121 M iv **Fred O. MERRILL** "Freddie" was born 24 Nov 1873. He died 13 May 1875 and was buried in Markham Cem., Village of Markham, Town of Dayton, Cattaraugus Co., NY.

Albert also married (2) **Sarah B. SHERMAN**, daughter of Mordecai Ellis SHERMAN and Elizabeth BUFFINGTON, on 19 Sep 1878. Sarah was born about 1837.

42. [Polly MERRILL](#) ([Silas](#) , [Barzilla](#) ) was born 9 Aug 1819 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY. She died 31 Mar 1903 in Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY and was buried in Evergreen Cem., Town of Fabius, Onondaga Co., NY.

Polly married **George WALLIS**.

They had the following children:

122 M i **Warren WALLIS**.

123 M ii **Wilson WALLIS**.

Wilson married **Rozella CLARK**.

124 F iii **Judith WALLIS**.

Judith married **James BARNARD**.

125 F iv **Mary WALLIS**.

Mary married **Giles HACKETT**.

126 M v **Edward WALLIS**.

Edward married **Stella CUMMINGS**.

49. [William MERRILL II](#) ([Edward](#) , [Barzilla](#) ).

William married **Mary F. MOREHOUSE** on 22 Dec 1858.

They had the following children:

127 M i **Edward S. MERRILL** was born 6 Jul 1860.

Edward married **Mary C. FERRIS** on 15 Nov 1882. Mary was born 20 Jan 1862.

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# Merrill Family Cemeteries in Saco, Maine

by

**Melissa McDermeit**

**Graphics by Melissa McDermeit**

Information comes from my grandmother, Lillian B. Hilliard Macomber who was the granddaughter of Helen Merrill and g-granddaughter of Levi (s/o Asa and Miriam) and Syrena Merrill who lived in the family homestead on Flag Pond Road. I do not know about all of the folks in this cemetery, but we do have pictures of some of them.

I have also included a diagram of a small cemetery across the street behind Grace Dow's house (Grace lived there in the 1960's and 1970's that I know of.) Including Gardner, Eliza and Louisa Merrill--this information comes directly from the stones. I visited this site in 1997 and found it fairly overgrown so took down what information I could reach and read. There may have been a fourth grave there, but the trees and bushes had taken over that corner completely.

[Merrill Family Cemetery on Flag Pond Road, Saco Maine \(Page 8\)](#)

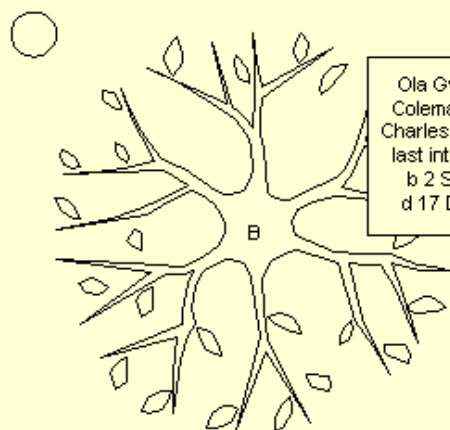
[Merrill Cemetery behind the Dow house \(Page 9\)](#)

[Location map \(Page 10\)](#)

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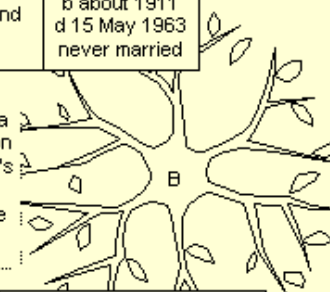


## Merrill Family Cemetery, Saco, Maine



Ola Gwendolyn Coleman (dau of Charles and Nellie) last interred here b 2 Sep 1899 d 17 Dec 1973	Charles Edward Merrill, son of Levi & Syrena b 28 mar 1863 d 7 Feb 1949	Nellie Hearn Merrill b Oct 1889 d 11 Dec 1919	Levi Merrill son of Asa and Miriam b. 6/19/1826 d 30 Mar 1909	Syrena Boyd Key Merrill-wife of Levi b. 14 Sep 1827 d. 7 June 1921	Louis Everett Merrill son of Levi & Syrena b 25 Feb 1868 d 2 Oct 1921	Mary McLeod Merrill- wife of Louis b Scotland	Helen Deering Merrill-dau of Louis & Mary Merrill b about 1911 d 15 May 1963 never married
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.....  
 Uncle Joe, Aunt Sally and a child were taken up by son Henry when Mattie (Henry's wife) died, L Macomber believes they may now be buried at Laurel Hill  
 .....



William H. Merrill-son of Levi & Syrena (he was blind) b 9 May 1854 d 19 Aug 1882	Levi Merrill Jr. son of Levi & Syrena, drowned in the Saco River ag 3yr,3mo, 3days b 21 May 1860 d 24 Aug 1863	Helen Merrill-dau of Levi, wife of Ed Thompson, grandmother of L. Macomber b 1 Oct 1851 d 5 Jul 1882	Miriam Estella Merrill Hall, "Estella" dau of Levi & Syrena, wife of George Hall b 15 Dec 1866 d 2 Aug 1888	Baby Hall, died at birth, dau of 2nd wife of George Hall
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Joseph Merrill-son of Elbridge & Lina b circa 1880s	Martha Merrill Monroe-sister of Elbridge b circa 1850s	Charles Merrill-son of Edwin	Edwin Merrill son of Elias & Sarah, Father of Foster	Joseph Merrill-child son of Elias & Sarah	Sarah(Berry) Merrill-Wife of Elias	Elias Merrill b before 1826	Edith Merrill-dau of Elbridge & Lina b circa 1880s	Howard Merrill-son of Elbridge & Lina b Circa 1880s	Mr. Vickerson, Father of Lina Merrill	Elbridge Merrill b 1854	Selina (Lina) Merrill-wife of Elbridge b 1858
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Andrew Roma, Soldier-WWI Vet, husband of Flora Merrill b circa 1880s	Flora Merrill-dau of Elbridge & Lina b. circa 1880s	?	Miriam Merrill wife of Asa, Mother of Levi and Elias b 1786 d 31 Dec 1844	Asa Merrill, husband of Miriam, father of Levi & Elias b 25 Aug 1782 d 13 Sep 1854	?	Charles Merrill-soldier Post 36	Willis Merrill, child, son of Charles & Myra Key Merrill (Myra was Syrena Key Merrill's sister)	Baby Bertha Watson, dau of Flora & Oscar Watson b circa 1900/1910	Oscar Watson, husband of Flora Merrill b. circa 1880s
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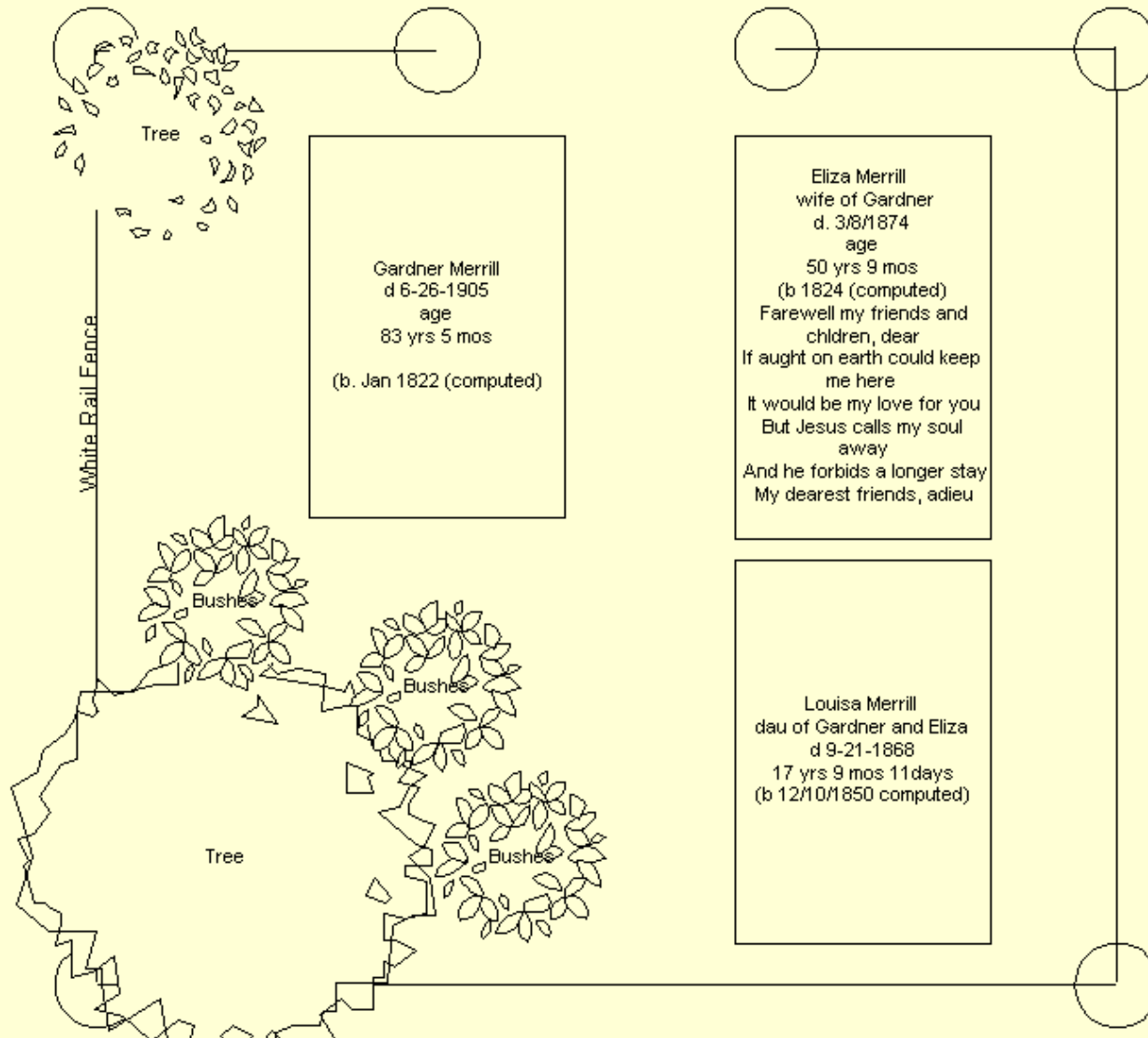


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## Merrill Cemetery behind the Dow house, Saco, Maine

I-95 Overpass

Flag Pond Road



Dow's House  
Faces Road  
Barn on Cemetery Side



Cemetery enlarged to show detail. Other details are not to scale.

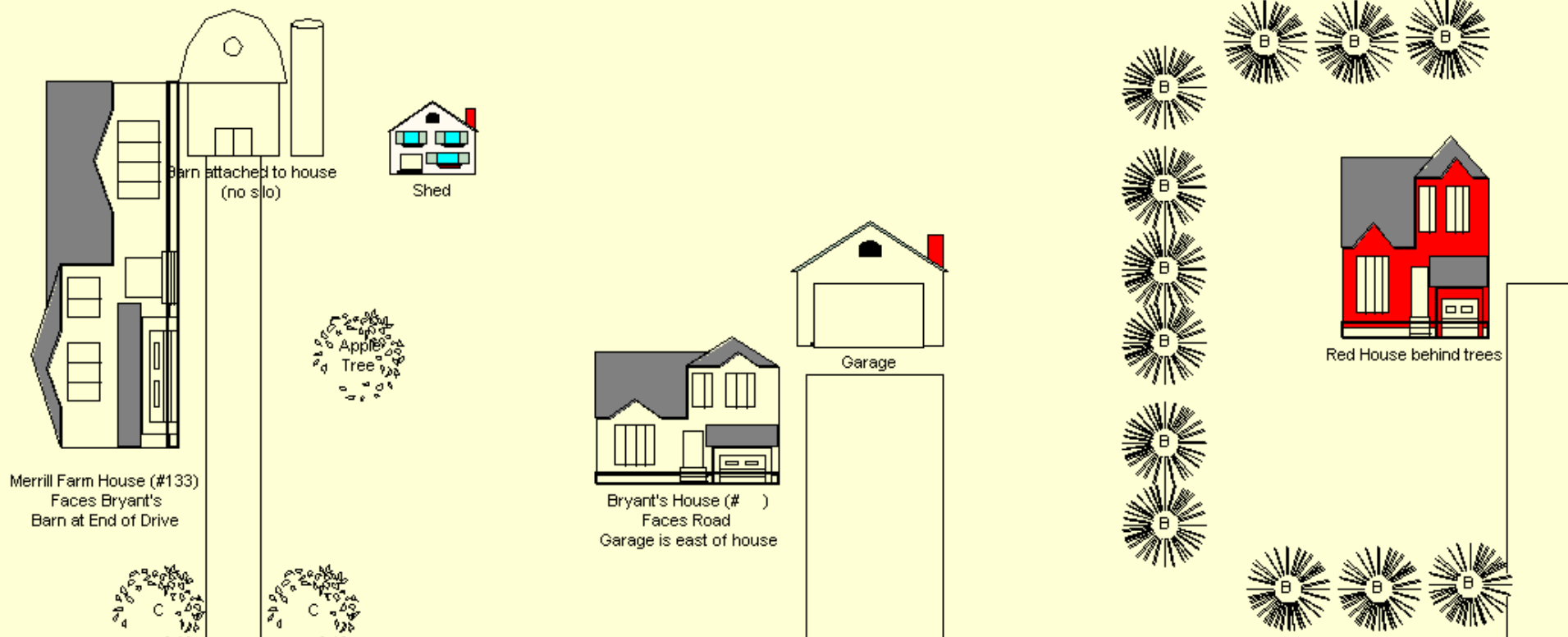
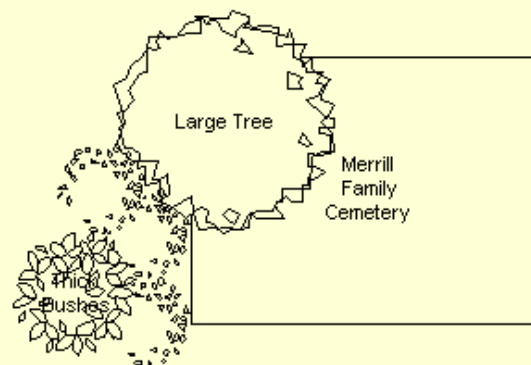
[Back](#) [Next](#)

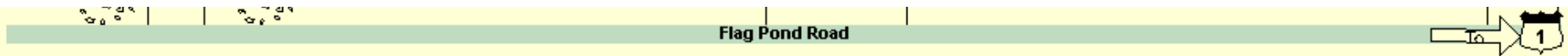
### Merrill Cemeteries Location Map, Saco, Maine



Not to scale, the goal is to show general location. Some features are not represented exactly.

Fields





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# Merrill Graves Near Bugtussle, Fannin County, Texas

by

**Susan Hawkins**

[hawkins@texoma.net](mailto:hawkins@texoma.net)

Merrill Cemetery south of Honey Grove one mile SE of Bugtussle Community on CR3600, Fannin Co., Texas

Merrill, A.F	25 Dec.1823 - 25 Dec.1886	husband of H.M.
Merrill, Bell	12 Mar.1863 - 30 Nov.1907	wife of James
Merrill, Frances	1832 - 17 Mar.1877	1st. wife of A.F.
Merrill, G.?		
Merrill, Infant		broken stone
Merrill, James B	25 Sep.1852 - 19 Sep.1914	WOW stone
Merrill, L.D		many of these stones apart and unreadable
Merrill, L.J.		
Merrill, P.E.		
Merrill, Pinkney Marcellus	1874-1880	son of W.B.& E.J.
Merrill, R.L.	1840-1865	(Rusey L.)
Merrill, W.L		
Partain, Mary Belle	24 Aug.1912 - 26 Dec.1912	dau. of C.Y.& Birdie



# QUERIES

by Howard and Jean Merrill

You may post your free query at our [website](http://www.merrill.wwh.net) <http://www.merrill.wwh.net/TMN/TMNhome.html>. Just scroll down to the Guestbook link and click on Sign Guestbook. We check the Guestbook frequently for new queries, and answer them by e-mail, before publication in this column. Please remember to include all known names, dates and locations to help us pinpoint your Merrill family.

## New Queries

**Query: Rose Adams** of CA wanted us to confirm a proposed lineage found in her mothers papers.

"Here is my mother's line, I just found her book."

Nathaniel Merrill & Susannah Wilterton  
 Dean Abraham Merrill & Abigail Webster  
 Jonathan Merrill & Mary Brown  
 Abraham Merrill & Mehitable Stevens  
 Abraham Merrill & Elizabeth Russ  
 Thomas Merrill & Susannah Pell  
 Gilman Merrill & Rebecca Sevier  
 Hyrum Merrill & Sarah Helen Brim  
 Claude Merrill & Constance Eva Brown  
 Lorraine Junella Merrill & Lester Chacey 2nd Brandon E. Kent (my father)

**Query: Lil Follett-Hall** asked: Who is Deborah Merrill, 65, with Truman, 32, schoolteacher, and Catharine, 29, in 1850 Census, Industry, Franklin, ME?

**Query: Don W Merrill** wrote: I am a twelfth generation New England Merrill. Some of the information I have differs slightly from the short blurb I got off the internet,. I have five sons (Nathaniel, John, Abraham, Daniel, and Abel). I have seen the material of another New Hampshire person who has a sixth son, Thomas.? There are discrepancies here and there. Does anyone have information on the ancestral line in England. I have four generations beginning with John born in 1475. A careful look at the dates through the generations suggests that there is a missing generation.

I look forward to hearing from you or someone with definitive answers

**Query: Celia Schultz** wrote asking who Mary Merrill's parents were." I have record of a Mary A. Merrill, b. Nov. 30, 1811, possibly in N. Yarmouth, ME; m. George Everett on March 11, 1830, probably in New Brunswick, Canada; date of burial 2/20/1885 in Manchester, NH."

From an "Everett" genealogy book: "George Everett is a 7th generation Descendant of Richard E of Dedham, MA. His wife, Mary A Merrill was of St. Andrews, NB, he was a farmer and shipwright, lived at Montville, Calais and Camden, ME. In 1869 he was living at Boston, MA."

**Query: Liz Tattersall** wrote "I am looking for information on Hattie G. Merrill. She married George E. Tattersall & had at least 2 sons, Ivan Leroy & Ernest. George was born in 1877, Orford, NH. Ivan's birth certificate lists Hattie as being born in Lyme, NH. Hattie is my gg grandmother.

**Query: Beverly Merrill** wrote:"I am still searching for my husband's father's line prior to 1794, Joseph(?) Merrill was born on August 21, 1794. He married Catharine Berry September 30, 1823, and can be found in census records for about thirty years living in Denmark, Maine; then Lovell, Maine; and in Sebago, Maine, with a daughter, Cynthia Holt, about 1860. Joseph and Catherine had one son who lived to adulthood Stephen(?) who was died in 1865 from wounds suffered in the Battle of Hatcher's Run, Virginia, in the Civil War. Stephen married Rebecca R. Blake and one of their children was Henry Wilson Merrill of Hiram, Maine, my husband's grandfather. Anyone have any knowledge of this line, particularly the parentage of Joseph [1794]?"

*Answers to the above New Queries will be published in the next issue of The Merrill Newsletter. Jean and Howard's answers to the Queries published in the last issue, 6:1, are on the next page. Please click the Next Button to read them.*



# Previous Queries and Answers

by Howard and Jean Merrill

**Q. Duane E. Crabtree** from Arlington, MA was seeking proof of parentage of True Merrill, born 1802; died 1846, Dover, ME

**Answer:**

We are pretty sure that True L. Merrill, b. 1806 Sept. 7 in Lewiston ME was the s/o Samuel<sup>6</sup> [Samuel<sup>5,4</sup>, Moses<sup>3</sup>, Daniel<sup>2</sup>, immigrant Nathaniel<sup>1</sup>] and Betsy Wilborn. True m. Sallie Lowe [we don't have a date], she b. Charleston ME ca 1805. Their children: Elijah Wilson 1829 Mar. 29; Samuel True 1831 May 25; Betsey Ann, 1833 Feb. 11; Nehemiah Dore, 1835 Dec. 29; Julia Ann, 1837; Sarah Eliza, 1839; Charles Lowe, 1841 May 19; Miranda Augusta, 1844 July 13. True L d. Dover ME 1848 Sept. 7. True and his family were listed in Dover in 1830 and 40 and the family was there in 1850 and 60.

**Q. I'm John Sullivan** living in Greensboro NC, grew up in Huntsville, AL. My grandmother was Josie Merrill, a daughter of George Washington Merrill, lived in Giles Co, TN, married Issac Gatlin. Do you have marriage dates? I have the booklet about the TN Merrills written by Mrs. Broadway and others. I would also like to get additional information on the connection going back from Rowan Co. NC. to NJ to Staten Island NY.

**Answer:**

We do not have a m. date for Mary Josie and Isaac Gatlin.

The book on TN Merrills by Broadway et al is in error with regard to the William Merrill who moved from Staten Island to Hopewell NJ. This William b. ca 1652 in Tysoe, Warwickshire, England was the brother, not the son, of Richard and Susanna Wells and is believed to have immigrated with them in 1680. He owned land in SI by 1683 which he and his wife Grace sold in 1687 when they moved, first to Monmouth NJ, then to Hopewell in 1704. Richard did have a son William b. 1668 [he was too young to have owned land in 1683], but after a disagreement with his father, he moved to St. Marys Co MD where he m. Ann Angel, had several children and d. there in 1712. William Jr., m. 1st 1697 Ann Parke and 2nd 1728 Penelope (Stout) Jewell. William Jr. was killed by lightning 1739 June 25. His sons William<sup>3</sup> and Benjamin<sup>3</sup> moved from Hopewell NJ to Rowan Co NC. From here on the Broadway book is correct.

**Q. Jon Krause** from Lubbock Texas said, I am working on a Merrill Line of Morris Pomeroy Merrill born in what is now Rensselaer. Co., NY on Apr 13,

1779, came to Onieda Co. around 1800, married Rhoda Robbins in Utica 1807, died in Rising Sun Indiana. I believe he had a brother named William that died in Herkimer Co. N.Y. The LDS Church has his name as Moris Elijah Merrill. Would like to know if you have any information on this line. Will supply you with his family if you need. Thanks, Jon Krause, Grandson of Samuel Robin Merrill

**Answer:**

Your Morris Pomeroy or Morris Elijah is in our "lineage unknown" file. We have what we thought was your Morris in Pittston, Rensselaer Co, NY in 1800, but he says he is [26-45] which doesn't jive with the 61 and 71 he gave as his age in 1850 and 1860 respectively [ he should be 21]. That Morris also has a [26-45] wife and 2m, 2f [under 10]. The more we study this, the less likely we think that he is your Morris.

Your Morris is in Freeport, Ontario Co, NY in 1820; in Randolph, Dearborn Co IN in 1830 and 40; in Rising Sun, Ohio Co [formed from Dearborn in 1844] IN in 1850; and [as Marcus - probably misread] with son Morris P in Randolph in 1860. We haven't read the 1870 OH census yet. We have from a correspondent that he had four sons and seven daughters.

In 1790 there is no Merrill listed in Stephentown, now Rensselaer Co NY, but in 1800 brothers Barzillai <sup>6</sup> and Mead <sup>6</sup> were there. They are sons of David <sup>5</sup> and Esther Howe of Waterbury CT [Nathaniel <sup>4</sup>, John <sup>3,2</sup>, Nathaniel <sup>1</sup>]. Both Barzillai and Mead have one more male than we have as known children, but only Mead has one in the age bracket in which Morris would belong [16-26]. We do not believe this is Mead's child, however, since in 1790 in Harwinton CT he only had one male [under 16] which matches his known children (Abel b. 1787). The extra male in 1800 could be a boarder or a hired hand or anyone living in his household.

Truman <sup>6</sup> [Nathaniel <sup>5</sup>, Gideon <sup>4</sup>, Wilterton <sup>3</sup>, John <sup>2</sup>, Nathaniel <sup>1</sup>] and the above mentioned Morris were in Pittston NY in 1800. An unknown John was in Pittston in 1790 with a son [under 16] and an unknown Mosier was in Shaghticoke with 2 males [under 16]. These towns are in the north end of Rensselaer Co about 40 miles from Stephentown. These were the only Merrills in what is now Rensselaer Co in 1790. You wonder if Mosier could be a misreading of Morris?

You mentioned a William who d. in Herkimer Co NY as being a possible brother of your Morris. There is an unknown William in Fairfield in 1810 with wife and 2f [under 10]. In Newport, Herkimer Co in 1810 there is a Marvis (Morris? but the head of household seems to be a [45+] female, but could be one of two [10-16] males; also there is a [16-26] female.

In 1820 what seems to be this same family (2m [16-26], 1f [16-26], 1f [45+] now headed by Thomas) is in Fairfield on the same page with William [26-45],

wife [26-45], 4m,1f [under 10], 1f [10-16].

In 1830 William [40-50], wife [30-40] is still in Fairfield with 2m,1f [under 5], 2m,1f [5-10], 1m [10-15], 2m [15-20]. No other Merrills are listed in Herkimer Co.

In 1840 William [50-60], wife [40-50] is in Manheim with 2m [5-10], 1m [10-15], 1m,1f [15-20], and 1m [20-30]. In Frankfort, Harvey (2m [30-40] with 1f [50-60]) is next door to John [30-40] and wife [20-30].

In 1850 Harvey, 44 and brother Ora, 43, are still in Frankfort. There is a Morris, 27, and wife Jane in Litchfield. Also there are Clarissa <sup>7</sup>, [Asa <sup>6</sup>, Gideon <sup>5,4</sup>, Wilterton <sup>3</sup>, John <sup>2</sup>, Nathaniel <sup>1</sup>] and a minister Samuel L, 28. In Fairfield there is an Ellen, 20. In Little Falls there is a Morris, 32, a saloon keeper. Finally in Manheim there is a George, 18. We do not know what relation these have to William or to your Morris.

**Q. Russell Merrill** from Riverton, KS: I am looking for information on my Great Great Grandfather Dudley Merrill b. 1814 Orange County, Vt to Oliver Merrill and Elizabeth Fellows Merrill. Any help would be Greatly Appreciated.

**Answer:**

Your Dudley Y <sup>7</sup> was b. 1814 Sept. 10 in Corinth, Orange Co, VT and d. 1890 July 8 in Merrillville, Lake Co, IN. He m. 1st, 1840 Jan 1, Julia Ann Peters [1818 Sept. 7 -1852 June 4] in Ross Twp [Merrillville] IN. Their children were: Oliver William, 1841 Feb. 1; John Porter, 1842 Oct. 13; Eliza Jane, 1844 Aug. 26; James Dudley, 1846 May 1; and Charles Louis, 1850 Mar. 15. Merrillville was named for Dudley and his brother William. Dudley m. 3 more times: 1852 Dec. 13 to Emeline Allen [1827 Aug. 24 - 1853 Nov. 13]; 1854 Feb. 12 to Roxelana (Pearce) Towl [1817 Apr. 3 - 1875 Apr. 4], (2 children d. young); 1875 July 3 to Caroline (Campbell) Merrill, widow of his brother William.

Dudley was the son of Oliver <sup>6</sup> [1782 Jan. 20, NH - 1854 Oct. 7 Merrillville IN] and Elizabeth Fellows [1788 Jan. 20 - 1852 Dec. 19] of Corinth VT. Their children were: William, 1808 Apr. 16; Hannah, 1810 May 28; Dudley; Mary Fellows, 1817 June 17; Plumy, 1820; John Fellows, 1822 May 13; Lewis Barton, 1829 June 5.

Oliver <sup>6</sup>'s lineage is Dudley <sup>5</sup> [1751 Dec. 12], James <sup>4</sup> [1719 May 6 - 1798], Thomas <sup>3</sup> [1678/9 Jan. 1 -1756 Sept. 18], Abel <sup>2</sup> 1643/4 Feb. 20 - 1689 Oct. 28, Immigrant Nathaniel <sup>1</sup> [bapt. 1601 May 4, Wherstead, Suffolk, England - 1654/5 Mar. 16 Newbury MA].

**Q. Pat Hanson** from Ames, Iowa: I am doing some beginning research on my Merrill line. I do know that in the late 1800s that my great grandparents settled in Butler County Iowa. Over the years they had 14 children. My great grandparents names: Joseph and Clara (Malarky) Merrill. These children were: Percy, Everett, Francis, Gladys, Marlys, Frank, Maude, Nellie, Madge, Joseph,

Gene, Richard, Jean, ? (I know but can't think or find it right now.) My great aunt has a partial family tree worked up, and I am trying to get a copy with dates, etc. This is a new project for me. Don't really know how to go into it. I do know to work from myself back, and I'm starting that way. Any pointers would be greatly appreciated.

**Answer:**

In 1870 there is a Joseph, 37, b. OH, in Butler Co IA, but he is not the Joseph to whom you refer. Joseph and his young 2nd wife Luisa, 21, have 4 young daughters [under 6]. Perhaps these are your Joseph's parents and your Joseph hasn't been born yet in 1870. We know that this Joseph is the son of Jesse and Nancy Hemphill, but we can't carry this line any further back at this time. We haven't started reading the 1880 census yet - still working on 1870 - but reading the 1880 Butler Co census should tell us if this Joseph did have a Joseph 1870-80 who might be a good candidate for your great grandfather. The place is correct, but we don't know if this is the right family.

When you get your Joseph's death date, newspaper obits, or funeral home records, or death certificates may give his parents names. Have you looked in graveyards for their grave stones? Are there other Merrills buried there? Collect ALL the Merrill data you find, and record where you found it - later on, you won't remember where you got it!

We looked in the Social Security Death Index for IA Merrills and found two we are sure are your family. Percy, b. 1898 Sept. 24; d. 1985 Apr; last known residence Bistow IA; SS# 484-10-2318 Everett, b. 1900 Sept. 10; d. 1966 Mar.; Last known res. Hansell IA; SS# 484-01-9107

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**Q. William Boston** from Pocomoke MD: My great-great-great-great grandmother is Leah Merrill, dau. of Joshua Merrill, she mar. Esau Boston about 1780. Would like to trace Merrill family in Pocomoke area.

**Answer:**

We know that the original immigrant to Somerset Co MD was William, b. ca 1645, who came as an indentured servant in 1668, worked off his servitude, m. Eliza (\_\_\_?\_\_\_), and d. 1710 Jan 23, leaving 9 sons and 4 daughters. This family populated the eastern shore of MD and VA. One of his sons was Joshua b. ca 1689. We do not know if this is the Joshua who mentioned your Leah in his will or a Joshua of a later generation.

Little has been done to trace this family. We made a special side trip to Annapolis a couple of years ago just to research this line, but the Hall of Records was closed the only day we had available for research.

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**Q. Karen Loftus** from Winslow, Maine: I just browsed the Merrill Genforum today and found where you are very helpful to many people searching the Merrill line. I will be subscribing to the Merrill Newsletter soon. Hope to be

able to help some; and to fill in the gaps in my lines. My Merrill line from Nathaniel is Daniel; Daniel; Joseph; Daniel; Joseph (lived in Livermore, ME. m. Eunice Boothby) Jonathan; William; Charles E.; Charles E.; E. Maude; Glenys Goodwin; Karen DeRoch. I have printed out copies from my Family Tree Maker and will send them to you. I do have a few gaps in regards to the wives of Jonathan, William, and Charles E.

**Answer:**

Thanks for sending your line. . We checked for the wives you mentioned. We don't have any m. dates or the wives parents, but Jonathan <sup>7</sup> m. Sarah Coffin [1787-1870]; William Clark <sup>8</sup> m. Annabel Hill [ca 1825 - 1898]; Charles E <sup>9</sup> m. Lucy Gilman [b. ca 1848].

**Q. Jimmy Merrell** of Augusta Ga: I am originally from Huntsville,AL. I am just getting started with researching my family genealogy. I recently was back in Huntsville and went to an area of Marshall County AL, where a lot of my descendants lived back in the 1800's. The area in question is Merrill Mtn. It is located about 25 miles southeast of Huntsville near the Guntersville Dam (TVA). I was wondering if you had traced any relatives to this part of the country.

**Answer:**

We know of one line of Merrell/Merrill that was located in the Marshall Co AL area. The widow of Charles <sup>4</sup> [Capt. Benjamin <sup>3</sup>, William <sup>2,1</sup>] (1761, NC - 1822, SC) filed for her widow's pension [Rev. War] from that area where she was living with her son Benjamin in 1840. Since you gave no data we have no way of knowing if you are descended from this line, but it seems likely.

William <sup>1</sup> came from Warwickshire, England to Staten Island NY in 1680 and later moved to Hopewell NJ. Capt. Benjamin <sup>3</sup> was a pre-Revolutionary patriot who was hanged for treason in 1771 for opposing the tyrannical policies of NC Gov. Tryon.



# JOHN Y. MERRILL'S DIARIES

by

**Allen R. Merrill**

Not everyone can tell you how his or her great grandfather spent the day 140 years ago today.

For example, on this date in 1860 I know that my great grandfather did his chores that morning, then he cut a little wood down on his meadow. After that he went over to Nathan Coppings'. Later he went up to Cap't. Turner's after cranberries for Nancy, my great grandmother. He observed that evening that Nancy was "very slim". (Nancy Manwell Merrill was to die four months later - of consumption.)

I am fortunate in having inherited eleven years of my great grandfather's diaries. His name was John Young Merrill, and he was born in Leeds, Maine in 1823. He died there, in 1898, in the farmhouse that housed three generations of Merrills after him. His diaries cover the years from 1855 to 1865. They are small books, about 4 ¾ x 3 inches, with only about an inch-and-a-half of space provided for each day's entry, thus they contain terse notations. Even so, they provide an excellent insight into the daily happenings in the life of a poor farmer on a small New England farm in the 19th century.

As you can imagine, reading the diaries creates almost a personal relationship between my great grand parents and me. Furthermore, because I can remember the old house from visits there in the 1930's, the images that are generated by reading the diaries are enhanced even more. The kitchen was large. It had a low ceiling, a big black stove, and a hand pump over a tin-lined sink. It probably had not changed much since they lived there. When John writes that he goes off on an errand - perhaps to Nathan Coppings' again - I can almost see him walking out the kitchen door into the woodshed, then through the carriage room down into the stable to harness the horse. And then when he hitches up to the wagon (or to the pung) I know that the puffs of steam are there as man and horse exhale into that frigid February Maine air.

From his 4,000 days' pencilled comments, I have chosen about 60 to be shown here. These are entries that I believe will be of interest to today's readers. They are grouped by subject matter into nine topics and then arranged chronologically within each. They are copied exactly as he wrote them - except for the addition of an occasional punctuation mark to help clarity. The topics are:

I. His Family

II. Nancy's Sickness

- III. His Spiritualism
- IV. Nature Observations
- V. Skills He Practiced
- VI. Medicine In The 1800's
- VII. Civil War Comments
- VIII Travels
- IX. Year-end Philosophy

## **A Selection Of Diary Entries**

### **I - His Family**

28 October 1855 - "Went to Winthrop, N. Monmouth. Nancy came home to live. Married by Dr. Prescott paid Dr. Prescott \$2.00."

(My great grandparents' wedding day.)

26 April 1856 - "Helped take care of Nancy had Drs. Loving and Cochran here each all day missed just at night paid Cochran \$5.00."

(Apparently Nancy suffered a miscarriage.)

4 September 1857 - "Staid at home Nancy sick had boy born weight 9¼ Paid Dr. Cochran \$3.00 hot day."

(This was the birth of Freeman, their first child, named for John's Mother's family, the Freemans. Although John paid Dr. Cochran only \$3.00, other records indicate that the total bill for delivery of the baby was \$7.00.)

27 October 1857 - "Staid at home. My little Freeman died 10 minutes past 12 o'clock last night."

29 October 1857 - "Buried my little Freeman."

20 November 1859 - "Nancy sick had boy weighed 8½ lbs. born 1 o'clock pm Name Edwin K."

(This baby was my grandfather, Edwin<sup>9</sup> Kimball Merrill. Nancy and John Merrill were to have no other children.)

### **II. Nancy's Sickness**

Nancy was plagued with illness throughout their married life, a victim of tuberculosis. The following are a few of the entries concerning her illness and her death.

15 September 1858 - "Nancy had fit just at night - bad one.

(A fit of coughing just after dark.)

6 January 1860 - "Out to Dr. Cochran's after him to come and see Nancy."

10 January 1860 - "Dr. Cochran here to see Nancy he has been out here twenty-four times this fall so far."

18 January 1860 - "Threshed wheat. Liz and Mrs. Bodge up here to see Nancy. Fetched her some herbs."

8 February 1860 - "Dr. Cochran here. Solomon Lothrop here. Brot box from Edwin\* with some wine, coffee, tea, sugar, crackers, borax, alum paid 13 cts express borrowed 6 cts Sylvanus 7 cts out seed money."

\*Edwin Kimball lived in Livermore Falls. My grandfather was his namesake. Edwin is mentioned frequently in the diaries for his gifts and kindness' to Nancy. He was Nancy's sister Phoebe's husband.

18 March 1860 - "Went down to John Turner's to carry Nancy out to ride."

21 March 1860 - "L. L. Lothrop gave me a pickrel for Nancy."

12 April 1860 - "Got letter from C. M. Joward, Stoughton. Asked how Nancy is, and prescribed: 2 oz. Queen meadow root  
10 oz. Golden Seal  
1 oz. Comfrey  
2 oz. Wintergreen  
1 oz. Columba root

13 June 1860 - "Got box from Edwin Kimball 1 qt. brandy, 1 qt. wine, farina, chocolate, oranges, figs, lemons."

In spite of John Y's temperance activities and his position as Revenue Agent, the use of spirits to help ease the suffering and try to stay the deteriorating physical effects of consumption was an accepted treatment then.

19 June 1860 - "Nancy, my dear loved wife, the mother of my sweet little Edwin died this morning about 6 o'clock which has left me alone with my babe in the world. She was 33 years the 22 day of last January."

John was 37 years old at the time of Nancy's death. Edwin was 7 months old. John's feelings of grief and his concern about his ability to raise an infant are obvious in the previous entry. John did not marry again.

One final diary entry concerning Nancy's death was written on the day following her burial. It illustrates the gathering of friends around one who had suffered a loss in the rural 19th century.

22 June 1860 - "Chored round some. Wm., John Turner, P. Budge, A.G. Mason, A. Mann, Jordan Howe, E.P. Ramsdell, V. Lothrop, Boll Jennings, C. White, Rockley's boy came and hoed my corn and potatoes over this P.M."

### **III. His Spiritualism**

We now skip backward one day, and find an interesting entry concerning Nancy's Funeral:

21 June 1860 - "Funeral addressed by or through Charles Hayden in a clear and easy manner, the first spiritual speaker at a funeral in town - caused a great talk."

Were they addressed 'by' a medium, or 'through' a medium? John Y. apparently didn't know how to define the funeral address; and it certainly must have "...caused a great talk" in a small Maine town in 1860 when a spiritualist spoke the funeral oration! This is the first clear statement I had of John Y. Merrill's belief in spiritualism. A review of his diaries reveals eight occasions when he attended seances or dealt with clairvoyants.

About spiritualism, Sidney Ahlstrom, in his *A Religious History Of The American People* said, "It was a religious force - for some it was a religion - and this was true long before the Hydesville rappings. There were always the bereaved and the remorseful who desperately needed and wanted to make contact with the departed..."

"In the pre-Civil War period the actual denominational possibilities of the movement went unrealized, even though an increasing number of clergymen became interested." "Because the mediums almost invariably stressed the general immortality of man, Universalists were especially attracted."

All of this seems to fit John Y's situation precisely. He was newly bereaved and probably sought contact with his just-departed Nancy. He had been raised in the Universalist influence, his grandfather having been a petitioner for the founding of the First Universalist Parish in Turner, District of Maine, in 1803. Finally, the Civil War was imminent, and the strange new movement was assuming the proportions of a separate new denomination.

#### **IV His Observations Of Nature**

Then, as now, farmers were intensely aware of nature. In his diaries, John Y. Merrill recorded the weather almost every day, particularly noting heavy snows, rains, cold days, and all of the signs of spring after the long, hard Maine winter. He noted the dates on which the ice went out, when he heard the first frogs (the "spring peepers" as they are now called), saw the first swallow, the first robin, the first bobolink, apple trees in full bloom, heard the first night hawk, and others. Living in Maine, one's appreciation of spring omens is enhanced by winters that can last up to six months. Awareness is heightened even more, because in Maine, not only the coming of spring, but also the season itself is often made up of little more than a fleeting series of short-lived natural signs and events. The dates of the first sightings of three harbingers of spring as recorded by John Y. Merrill are listed below. The uniformity of these omens is surprising; not only do their arrivals vary by little more than 3 weeks, they always show up in the same order - the robins first, then the frogs, and the swallows last.

Arrival Times Of Three Harbingers Of Spring, 1855-1865.  
As Recorded by John Y. Merrill

	1855	1856	1857	1858	1859	1860	1861	1862	1863	1864	1865
--	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------	------

1st Robin	-	4/8	3/28	4/6	3/24	4/3	3/30	4/13	4/11	-	3/18
1st Frogs	4/15	4/15	4/11	4/6	4/17	4/10	4/20	4/27	-	-	4/7
1st Swallow	4/22	-	-	5/1	5/5	4/19	4/26	5/4	4/28	-	4/24

## V His Skills

During the 19th century in Maine the small farmer eked out a meager living. To exist, he became a jack-of-all-trades, and John Y. was no exception. John Y's diaries were primarily account books, kept to record transactions of the small amounts of cash with which he dealt. (The reader may have noted that, on 8 February 1860, when Edwin Kimball's package for Nancy arrived with 13 cents express money due, John had to borrow 6 cents from his brother Sylvanus, and the 7 cents balance out of the seed money. These New Englanders were frugal - by necessity.) Cottage industry, as it has come to be called, was prevalent then. John made boots and shoes at home, from shoe parts shipped to him on consignment. As he hand-stitched the parts together and shipped them back, he was paid for the quantity produced.

The number and the variety of the skills he practiced is impressive. I have listed below the tasks he mentions during the 11 years that he kept his diaries:

Cut and hauled knees to depot (naturally formed wood knees, probably tamarack, were used in shipbuilding, as braces).

Fixed bobsled

Hooped barrels

Split stone

Jacked house

Killed hog

Worked in woods getting out sleepers (heavy beams for foundations)

In woods after bobsled runners

Worked on sled shoeing it

Cut timber

Killed ox

Plastering, lathing, smoothing

Shingling

Moved houses and barns in Maine and Massachusetts

Went blueberrying, cranberrying, and raspberrying

Cradled rye and wheat

Mowed, hayed

Hewed timber

Made coffin for Wm. Foster's child

Dug grave

Fixed clock

Dug in well  
Stoned well, fitted curbstone  
Split out stone posts  
Flagged cellar bottom  
Killed, skinned old mare  
Bottomed 3 chairs  
Built Shellings bridge  
Built houses  
Prohibition agent - Constable of Leeds (1854)  
Kennebec County Deputy Sheriff (1854)  
Tax Collector (1852, 1853)

## VI. Medicine

In addition to the medicines mentioned during Nancy's illness, John mentions other medical practices. These were apparently cures that were communicated by word-of-mouth. It was John's custom to write these on the flyleaf of the diary he was writing that year. This gave him a sort of "library" of medical lore whenever the need arose.

1856 - "Cure for hickups - stretch the arms up over the head."

- "For pinworm take pumpkin seed steep sweeten with molasses take as any potion and drink."

1857 - "For worms horse lily root dried and grated taken in molasses tablespoonful."

1859 - "Sulphur and molasses:

2½ oz. sulphur  
1 oz. seneca  
1 oz. cream tartar  
½ oz. anis seeds  
2 spoonfulls molasses  
Grown person once a day, at night."

Date unknown - "Rheumatism"

"2 oz. Kidney wort  
2 oz. Senna  
2 oz. Thorough wort  
2 oz. Golden seal  
2 oz. Yellow dock root  
1 oz. Guaiacum chips

"Steep 4 pts. to 3 pts. strain add cup white sugar when cold add ½ pt. Jamaica rum. Take 3 tablespoons ½ hour before eating."

Date unknown - "A poultice on S \_\_\_\_\_." ?

Teaspoon Ginger, Mustard, Flour, All spice  
"Mix in warm water spread thin 3 nights in success wear piece  
black silk across chest all time."

Medical services caused financial problems back then, too - as the next two entries show:

14 October 1861 - "Dr. Cochran here to look over account his bill against due is \$115.94."

This bill must have been accumulating for a considerable length of time, because Dr. Cochran's normal house call was only \$1.00. If a medicine was also dispensed, another dollar was added. This large bill certainly included some visits to Nancy during her last days more than a year earlier. In any event, an agreement for settling the bill was reached on 25 October 1861. (I still have that agreement, written in Dr Cochran's hand.) It looks something like this:

\$115.94 Monmouth, October 25, 1861

Whereas, John Y. Merrill is owing a balance on Acct. of one hundred and fifteen dollars & 94/100. I agree that if he will drive and deliver me at Monmouth one yoke of two year old steers and one yearling steer, and one cow, with calf, the same steers which I have seen, and the same cow, he has described to me,

I will receipt his bill, and discharge all demands against him in full. - Said steers and cow to be

delivered by or before Monday night Oct. 28th 1861.

James Cochran

Three days after the agreement was written, John made the following entry in his diary:

28 October 1861 - "Drove pr. 2 year old steers 1 year old steer and Owens cow out to Dr. Cochran got receipt for \$115.94 in full."

(I also have that receipt - which Dr. Cochran wrote, settling the account.)

6 September 1862 - "Went to Winthrop had tooth pulled one filled paid 75 cts."

Although both ether and nitrous oxide had been used as general anesthetics starting in the 1840's, local anesthesia had not been invented by 1862. It is probable that John Y's extraction was done without benefit of any form of anesthesia.

John Merrill also tried healing his fellow man - but in a small way, (and primarily to earn money, I'm sure). In any event, among his papers, copies of the following small printed notice were found:

#### BALSAMIC SALVE

~~~~~

A perfect and safe remedy  
for poisons, burns,

scalds, cuts, bruises, chaped  
hands, chafes, all  
humorous sores, salt rheum,  
scaled head, cold  
and fever sores, any  
eruption of the skin, &c.  
Prepared and put up by J. Y.  
MERRILL,  
Leeds, Maine.  
Price, 15 cents per box.

and, in his diary, the following entries:

27 July 1855 - "Went in woods after balsam. Home at night. Getting ready to make salve."

28 July 1855 - "Went to Mrs. Dean's bought 8 lbs lard 12 cts per lb. 4 lbs bees wax 2 shilings lb."

6 August 1855 - "P.M. went to Buckley's after kettle fixing to make salve."

7 August 1855 - "First time made salve. Fifty-four pounds."

Fifty-four pounds! We know only of the 8 pounds of lard and 4 pounds of bees' wax, plus some balsam for fragrance. What the other 40-odd pounds consisted of can only be guessed at.

The small New England farmer also acted as his own veterinarian, as the following entries show:

20 February 1856 - "Got tobacco for mare; she sick all day and night."

15 October 1861 - "Killed old lame cow found great tumor in where her kidneys should have been."

Some statements portray other medical difficulties of those days:

4 August 1863 - "A.M. round house. Edwin got breach had Dr. Loring help put it back. Paid 55 cts." (A 'breach' was a hernia.)

6 August 1863 - "Went to Lewiston got truss for Edwin. Paid \$2.25."

## **VII. The Civil War**

A number of John Y. Merrill's diary entries mentioned the War Between the States.

14 January 1855 - "Read Uncle Tom's Cabin."

2 December 1859 - "John Brown hung in Virginia for trying to help liberate the poor slaves."

16 December 1859 - "Cook couple with two negroes were hung in Virginia for helping liberate the slaves."

6 November 1860 - "Went down to Town House to vote for President and vice. Lincoln and Hamlin."

(Hannibal Hamlin was from Paris, Maine.)

12 April 1861 - "Hauled load of shingle stuff over to Coffin's. Bunched up 4 thousand shingles. Fort Sumpter attacked by South Carolinians and destroyed."

19 April 1861 - "Come home (from Livermore) with old cow. Stop to Charles Knapp's dinner. Sold 33 eggs 33 cts. Mass soldiers attacked in Baltimore on their way to Washington."

27 April 1861 - "Hauled out manure on garden A.M. went raising John L. Jennings barn. Charles Bodge and Wesley Libby enlisted in army."

4 May 1861 - "Helped Sylvanus plow. Went down to corner helped raise the flag staff opposite Gid Lane's."

4 July 1861 - "Went up to Livermore Falls carried Rosina, Louisa, Edwin - celebration."

23 August 1861 - "See Allen Plummer in Maine 7 regiment going to war."

14 January 1862 - "Went down to Benj. Conant's after calves. See soldier from the war going home to Aroostook County."

1 June 1862 - "O. O. & Charles Howard both got wounded in battle near Richmond."

15 June 1862 - "David Freeman got wounded in battle near Richmond in face and cheek."

Note: In the spring of 1862 principal Civil War activity near Richmond was in the Peninsular Campaign. In view of the state of communications at the time, O. O. and Charles Howard may have been wounded at Williamsburg on May 5 when a vicious rear guard fight occurred as Longstreet and Hill delayed McClellan's advance into Yorktown. David freeman's wounds, which John Y. Merrill learned of on June 15 may have occurred as late as the battle Of Seven Pines (or Fair Oaks) on May 31st and June 1st, but probably did not happen much after that.

4 July 1862 - "Went up to Livermore Falls to celebration. O. O. Howard delivered address. Paid 25 cts soldiers aid."

17 July 1862 - "Went down to Greene to military election."

10 September 1862 - "Went to North Leeds to draft soldiers for war. There was enough enlisted."

21 November 1862 - "Sylvanus and Rosina went up to Mr. Hussey's had funeral service preach for George their son who died in the army in Virginia."

17 January 1863 - "Henry Kimball died near Washington with fever."

18 January 1863 - "Edwin Kimball started for Washington."

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John Y. Merrill's sister, Louisa, married Charles Lamy. They moved to New York. Their son, Charles F. Lamy, while still in his teens, worked as a telegraph operator for the American Telegraph Company. Charles worked at the Wall House Hotel in Williamsburg (Brooklyn), New York and later at the Astor House in New York City. On March 20, 1863 Charles, who often corresponded with his uncle, wrote to John Y. Merrill on Wall House stationery, as follows:

"The President talks about drafting for soldiers under the conscription act. I hear there is an organization being raised to resist this in New York. They say they will not go and will fight here sooner than fight down South. I do not want them to fight here as they will be apt to raise a big muss."

(Resistance against the draft is not new.)

16 July 1864 - "Dexter Howard came home wounded in neck.

8 November 1864 - "Went to Presidential election. Lincoln votes 157 McLellan 139."

15 April 1865 - "President Abraham Lincoln shot last night died this morning at 20 minutes past 7 by John Wilks Booth in Ford's Theatre Washington, D. C."

## **VIII Travels**

Two of John's brothers moved to Massachusetts. John visited them and stayed with them sometimes when he was working there. After one such visit to Abington, his brother George accompanied John back to Leeds. John noted some details of that trip in his diary:

22 May 1861 - "Came in to Boston paid \$1.20 George's my fare. Dinner, supper, 82 cts Sugar 1 lb. 12 cts. Paper 1 ct. Fare on boat \$2.00. For luggage wagon 30 cts."

23 May 1861 - "Came to Portland on boat. Bot bbl. pickled fish \$3.25 bbl. mackrel \$5.75. Our fare up to Lewiston \$2.40. For baggage up to Monmouth 25 cts. Brot up to Greene."

24 May 1861 - "A.M. come home. M.M. Pratt come with us he had half bushel potatoes, hay and greens. Went to Monmouth Center. Sold \$1.32 worth fish for freight on fish - 2 bbls. 72 cts."

Apparently they traveled from Abington to Boston by rail, then to Portland by the overnight steamer, and by train again, to Lewiston, sending John's two barrels of fish on to Monmouth. They spent the night in Greene, went on home to Leeds the next morning, then rode over to Monmouth that afternoon where John sold some fish to pay the freight bill.

## **IX. Year-End Philosophy**

Sometimes, on the last evening of the year, John would forego his usual terse report on the day's happenings and pause to reflect on the year that was ending. He did this four times:

31 December 1855 - "Thus dies the year. There has been many changes since this year came in."

(John and Nancy had been married in 1855)

31 December 1856 - "Thus dies the year with two more friends to be numbered with the dead; my dear old Grandmother and dearest sister Olive, gone where we are all going, fast as time can carry us."

(Grandmother Freeman died 8 June 1856, Olive died 23 December 1856.)

31 December 1859 - "So dies another year. This has been a hard one for me but the next may be worse though I do hope for the best for me and mine with the whole human kind. This has been the last with some who were helping their fellows to freedom."

(John had been seriously ill for about 6 weeks during 1859 - from the symptoms, possibly encephalitis - and he probably now knew that Nancy was dying, since she lived less than 6 months after this.)

31 December 1860 - "Thus ends the year with all its changes."

(Nancy had died in June)

Finally, among the other documents written by John Y. are a couple of small notes that he wrote, apparently during adolescence - probably in the mid-1830's:

#### VIRTUE

"A Greek girl being asked what fortune she would bring her husband replied: ' I will bring that which gold cannot purchase a heart unspotted and virtue without a stain which is all that descended to me from my parents' ".

On another piece of paper John wrote down his earliest memory:

"As I sit myself down to muse on the past, I cannot help thinking of my past life from my earliest recollections up to the present time. I was born in the North Part of Turner in 1823 and lived there until 1825, then my father moved to Leeds and in 1827 my brother Silvanus fell into the fire which is the earliest circumstance that I can recollect."

John is recalling something that occurred when he was four, and his little brother, Silvanus, was only one year old. We can imagine the commotion and the fright when the infant fell into the fireplace before his brother's eyes. Little wonder that the scene was etched in John Y.'s memory!

John<sup>8</sup> Young Merrill died at his home in Leeds on November 1, 1898 at 75 years of age. He is buried in the Merrill plot in the West Leeds Cemetery.

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#### ***About Allen R. Merrill***

*Born in Boston, Massachusetts, Allen Merrill's first twelve years were spent in the cities in and around Cambridge during the midst of the Depression. Then the Merrills moved to a small farm near Lowell. After high school he enlisted in the United States Navy, and served for two years, including a stint on the aircraft carrier USS Randolph. Upon discharge in '46, he entered Lowell Textile Institute. That next spring his fraternity sponsored a dance and invited nursing cadets from a local hospital. Claire Cooley, from Peabody, Mass. was*

*one of the nurses who accepted the invitation. Claire and Allen were married in November of 1947.*

*After graduating from LTI (now U. Mass. - Lowell) in 1950, with a BS in Textile Engineering degree, Allen and family spent 6 years in Northern New Jersey, before following the textile industry southward. During the next 14 years they lived in 6 different locations in Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia, finally "settling" in Williamsburg, Virginia for 16 years, until they were transferred to Asheville, N. C. in 1986. Allen retired there two years later. Asheville is still their home.*

*They spend summers in a 2-bedroom cottage on the Maine coast that they purchased in 1981 and which Allen remodeled after he retired. The cottage, and the small workshop that he built for woodworking and woodcarving, are poised 50 feet above the rocky shore, located near a small "Down East" fishing village. Allen is convinced that the site creates in him the same sensations that FDR experienced when he termed Campobello Island (50 miles northeast): "This blessed place".*

*The Merrills have six children - four boys, followed by two girls, and six grandchildren, plus Charlie, a three year old fawn Pug. None, (except for Allen - and Charlie, to a lesser degree) are spoiled.*

A.R.M.

***Editor's Note:*** *Allen has now contributed three articles to The Merrill Newsletter; "John Y. Merrill's Diaries," and previously in Volume 5, Number 1 - "Wherstead, Suffolk, England" and in Volume 6, Number 1 - "Early Origins." He has written and self-published a monograph about his strain of the family, "Merrill - A Family History" with limited distribution among his family members and at least one library that we know of.*

*In spite of the above accomplishments, Allen steadfastly denies being either an author or a genealogist.*



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We welcome all MERRILL researchers. Whether your ancestor is [Nathaniel](#) who emigrated from Suffolk County, England to Newbury, Essex Co., MA; or one of the Warwickshire, England brothers [Richard](#) of Staten Island, Richmond Co., NY and [William](#) of Hopewell, Burlington Co., NJ, or other **MERRILL** progenitor, you will find expert help in your genealogical research. If you have suggestions for this site, please [send to me](#). Thank you, and best of luck in your search!

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Watch this space for **NEW** information. This page will change frequently. New! [My MERRILL database](#)  
12 Mar 1998

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**The Arrival of the Merrill Brothers in Massachusetts** Added to this page 16 Aug 1996 Nathaniel Merrill came from Wherstead, Suffolk County, England to Ipswich (then Agawam) Massachusetts abt 1639/40 and soon moved to Newbury, originally known as Quasacucon, to join his brother John who was in the colonies by 1636 when he was granted a homesite in Ipswich, Mass. No one knows for certain on which ships the Merrill brothers sailed to America from England. Newbury was originally settled in 1635 by families from Ipswich. John arranged for Nathaniel's homesite in Newbury on 23 Jul 1638, which probably means Nathaniel wasn't there yet. Some researchers believe Nathaniel came at the same time as John, then returned to England, where one of his children was born in 1638. John married Anis Bishop(e) and had one daughter, Hannah, who married Stephen Swett. Nathaniel married Susannah and had four sons and one daughter, thus is the progenitor of most of the New England Merrills.

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## Good *LINKS*

[Nancy "kirbybear" Williams' Home Page](#) *Nice MERRILL family presentation with photos*

[Cyndi's List of Genealogy Sites](#) *At least 50,000 links to genealogy sources*

[Peter Wittenberg 1817-1884 CA](#) *Lots of interesting info & a MERRILL tidbit*

[Chris Shearer Cooper's MERRILL line](#) *displayed with JavaGED - excellent!*

[Paul Noyes' genealogy](#) *with 228 early Merrills and Java search powered by Progenitor 2 Version 6 - great!*

[Deane Merrill's genealogy page](#) *with several Merrill databases*

*Thanks to Deane Merrill and Don E. Merrill,  
the Merrill database is now on [Gendex](#)! Request database lilhall2 (formerly dwmerrill8).*



[Suffolk Co. UK Records](#)

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*Send us the URL of your home page featuring MERRILL ancestors, & we'll add it to our links!*

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*Page created by: Lillian Follett-Hall*



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[TMNhome.html](#) 3/30/2000 0045 EST in:

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<http://merrill.wwh.net/TMN/>

# Nathaniel MERRILL

## Family Group Sheet

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### Husband: Nathaniel MERRILL

b 4 May 1601 [Wherstead](#), Suffolk, England  
m 23 Sep 1633 Wherstead, Suffolk, England  
d 16 Mar 1654/55 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts  
Father: Nathaniel MERRILL  
Mother: Mary Blacksoil  
Other Spouses: none known

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### Wife: Susannah \_\_\_\_\_

b c1610 England  
d 25 Jan 1672/73 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts  
Father: Unknown first husband of Susannah SHEPPARD  
Mother: Susannah SHEPPARD (m. 2) Gregory WOLTERTON/WILLERTON)  
Other Spouses: 2) Stephen JORDEN

---

### Children:

#### 1 M Nathaniel MERRILL

chr 25 May 1634 Lawford, Essex, England  
m 15 Oct 1661 Salisbury, Essex, Massachusetts  
d 1 Jan 1682/3 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts  
Spouse: Joanna KINNEY

---

#### 2 M John MERRILL, Deacon

b 16 Feb 1635/6 Lawford, Essex, England  
m 12 Sep 1663 Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut  
d 18 Jul 1712 West Hartford, Hartford, Connecticut  
Spouse: Sarah Margaret WATSON

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#### 3 M Abraham MERRILL

b 9 Apr 1637 Lawford, Essex, England  
m 18 Jan 1660/61 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts  
d 28 Nov 1722 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts  
Spouse: Abigail WEBSTER, Sarah ROWLANDSON

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#### 4 F Susanna MERRILL

b 12 Dec 1638 Lawford, Essex, England  
m 15 Oct 1663 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts  
d 10 Oct 1690 Suffield, Hartford, Connecticut  
Spouse: John BURBANK

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5 M Daniel MERRILL, Sgt.

b 20 Aug 1642 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts  
m 14 May 1667 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts  
d 27 Jun 1717 Salisbury, Essex, Massachusetts  
Spouse: Sarah CLOUGH, Sarah MORRILL

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6 M Abel MERRILL

b 20 Feb 1643/44 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts  
m 10 Feb 1669/70 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts  
d 28 Oct 1689 Newbury, Essex, Massachusetts  
Spouse: Priscilla CHASE

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SOURCES:

Merrill, Samuel A *Merrill Memorial* 1917-1928 1983 Reprint: Parker River Researchers, The Anundsen Publishing Co.  
Rue, Eleanor *The Wife of Nathaniel Merrill* The Merrill Newsletter 3:3 9/15/93

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