

# The Merrill Newsletter

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## Honcut Cemetery, Butte County, California

By Joyce Lent Bode



Early in my learning about how to do genealogical research, I attended a seminar session on writing for cemetery records. So because of this new knowledge, I wrote to the Sexton of Honcut Cemetery, Butte County, California, to obtain whatever information I could on the Merrill family. My letter was returned. I later found out why.

On April 13, 1990, my mother (Doris Merrill Lent) and I drove to the town of Honcut to locate the cemetery. Honcut is rather a small town to say the least. There is a school and one gas-grocery-general store. One of the newspaper articles written



after Daniel Page's death stated that "he was the first resident to give Honcut an impetus." I guess when he died, the impetus died, too. The article also stated he established a large general merchandise store and was the first postmaster. I wonder if the gas-grocery-general store we saw was the one he started.



We stopped to ask a local resident where to find the cemetery and he said to go east about four miles, and the cemetery was out in the field on the left. He thought we needed to get the key from "Mrs. Osgood in the house at the top of the hill on the right side of the road." After going for about four miles, there was indeed a hill on the right and we went up. Sure enough, Mrs. Osgood lived there, and she did have the key to the cemetery. She was about 90 years old and wanted to tell me the entire history of the Honcut cemetery and how the records had been lost, and how no one is caring for the cemetery now and how there has been fire and vandalism and... I explained that I was on a very tight time schedule and must go on to see the cemetery. She also said that there were no "old timers" left who could tell me about the cemetery. I wondered what she considered herself. She asked what name I was searching for, and when I said Merrill, she said she remembered that name.

The gate to the road leading into the cemetery was another few yards on down the road on the left, but the gate wasn't locked. By this time we could see the small cemetery sitting under some oak trees out in the field, with no buildings, no cemetery office, and certainly no Sexton! We drove to the gate of the cemetery, and it wasn't locked either so we drove inside. It only took a few minutes to spot the Merrill plot. What a thrill! The plot was about a six-lot size, but there were only two names on the center stone as follows: Gilman Merrill, September 19, 1806-January 26, 1886, was on the front, and Elbridge G. Merrill, October 1, 1853-February 16, 1881 was on the south side of the pillar. The name Merrill was on the step leading into the plot, and there were two head markers; one said Elbridge and the other one said Father. There was a small metal stake in the plot, but nothing was legible on it.

According to family and newspaper accounts, Austin Page is buried there as well as Daniel Page, Hattie Talbot Merrill (Daniel Page's wife), Mary Goss Page Merrill (Gilman's wife), and my cousin, Larry Green, indicated that Elbridge Clark Merrill, Austin's brother, died in Chicago but was also buried at Honcut. Either it is a larger plot than I estimated, or it is really crowded!



I wrote to the Paradise Genealogy Society and they sent a copy of the records of the Honcut cemetery, but only the two names from the tombstone are listed.

I took photographs of the cemetery to document what I found. We had a good laugh about why my letter was returned "no caretaker no one to receive a letter." It could have just gone to the "dead" letter office.

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# The Merrills of Yates Center, Kansas

by Richard Swymeler

In the summer of 1927, a young Marine Corps Private was in downtown Seattle during Fleet Week with some of his comrades to attend one of the many dance halls in the thriving 1920's town of Seattle, Washington. Seattle was the biggest city to which Daniel William Merrill had been. Daniel had grown up in the small Kansas town of Yates Center.

As the story goes, my grandmother (Margaret Carriveau, 21) was the envy of the family with her ability to 'Charleston' in all the dance halls around Seattle. She and her cousins from the Carriveau and Raboin families had made it an annual event to dance with the 'guys' in town during this annual celebration week in Seattle.

My grandmother and her cousins were outside the dancehall smoking cigarettes, when Margaret decided to throw her lit cigarette on a bench without regards to who might come along and sit down. Not realizing the 'fiery' condition about to take place, Daniel sat down and burned a hole in his Marine Corps slacks and turned around to catch a glimpse of the young girl who would one day become his bride.

We have never heard the end of the story, but it is the beginning of the fire-kindled love that led to Daniel William Merrill and Margaret Mary Carriveau to wed on April 22, 1928. To this union three children were born: William Richard (Billie), Gloria Louise and Richard Rae. Young Billie died of complications of bronchial pneumonia on March 16, 1931, just one day after Gloria's first birthday. In researching family histories, it is always sad to find a young child pass on to eternity. One can only imagine the pain suffered by this young couple; but as all do, continue to endure life's misfortunes and raise their children who become the citizens of the next generation.

While not important to the Rich and Famous, the majority of our planet's population live their lives unnoticed except through the eyes of those living with them or encountering them upon their earthly journey. It is that interest in people, my people, that has kindled a desire to know about my family. To study their environs and glean from pictures, stories and records from the past, all under the guise of genealogy to build a report that future generations might be able to link to.

The young Merrill Family of Seattle documented life in albums of pictures that recorded still life events in their family. I have often thought that the pictures spoke to me of 'snaps' of time in these people's life. Some of the pictures captured in these albums have dates recorded on the back of them, names, places many do not. It is, however, that through these pictures, I have been able to piece my way (for the MERRILL family) back to about 1815 in St-Lawrence County, New York.



*Dora (Craig), Frank J., and William Merrill*

*Photo restoration by Robert C. Sollars*

Years ago, I found in my grandmother's album a picture of a young man, his wife and a young boy. The picture was taken in Burlington, Kansas. On the back of the picture there are no names, just a note written, `burned in the fall of 1897, killed June 1899. How this young man looked so much like my grandfather Daniel, big ears, dark hair. Who was this couple? Who was killed? Unfortunately, my mom (Gloria) and uncle (Richard) did not know. That curiosity many years ago was a spark of curiosity that led me to answers that have surprised me, my mom and the rest of the family.

When I first started to research my Merrill Family roots, I only had the names of my grandfather, Daniel William Merrill, born in Kansas, I also knew that he had twin brothers, Claude and Clyde, also born in Kansas.

That was it!





*Clyde, Dan, and Claude, William and Dora Merrill's boys*

About 3 years ago, I wrote for granddad's social security application, as no living person could verify where in Kansas he was born. My mom and uncle had thought he was born in Yates Center; however, a letter to the county courthouse indicated otherwise. I had a copy of his funeral service that listed his parents' names, but no valid source of data. Granddad's death certificate only indicated that he was born in Kansas. Thank you to President Roosevelt and the 1936 Social Security Act and the Freedom of Information Act, which has allowed me access to this record. There it was, Granddad's writing, September 28, 1904, Wier City, Kansas.

With this little piece of information, I wrote to the Cherokee County Genealogical Society and had some work done with the little information that I knew. A few weeks later, I received copies of Census Records. These records showed that my great-grandmother, Dora Craig Merrill was seen on the 1900 United States Census of Cherokee County as mother of two, none living. On the 1905 Kansas Census, she is shown as mother of three, one living - there's granddad! On the 1910 United States Census they were found in Woodson County, Kansas, Yates Center Township, three children - there's Claude and Clyde!

After writing to the Campbell Funeral Home in Yates Center searching for copies of funeral records, I was given the address of a nice lady in Yates Center. I sent her a note in the mail, and she happened to know a Donna Merrill Nickel who might be related. This angel (Donna) went to the gravesites referenced on funeral records of William and Dora, to find next to them two other graves. Phonie Merrill, aged 13 days, and Frank J. Merrill, June 1899. After many years, a picture came back to life, and the little known note became another piece of family history solved. I've later found that Donna is not related to my line of Merrills, but she went the extra mile to help to fit together more pieces of the puzzle.

On the grave of Phonie Merrill is the inscription: "Phonie, budded on earth to bloom in heaven." Such sad words, comforting words to a young couple who lost their first child, not knowing that their own son would lose his first child -- Different generations, same grief.

Through many letters, Census research, Civil War Pension Applications, Marriage Records, Civil War Muster Rolls, and numerous genealogical societies, I have been able to piece my part of the Merrill family together. Unfortunately, I have not been able to link up with the Merrills of Suffolk County so vividly spoken of in *A Merrill Memorial*, by Samuel Merrill.

Below is a copy of my descendant tree as researched and hope that others reading this article might be able to help me further -- but even more, that I may find other family members in pursuit of the same avocation.

## *Descendants of James Merrill*

### *Generation No. 1*

1. JAMES<sup>1</sup> MERRILL<sup>1,2</sup> was born Abt. 1818 in Saint Lawrence County, New York State<sup>3</sup>, and died Bef. 1870. He married MARY STARLIN<sup>4,5</sup> October 29, 1835 in Hamilton County Ohio<sup>6</sup>. She was born 1818 in Ohio<sup>7</sup>.

Notes for JAMES MERRILL:

James Merrill and his family found on the 1850 and 1860 Census, Hamilton County Ohio, Harrison Township. Jame's occupation is recorded as Carpenter with birth state of New York.

Also enumerated with the James Merrill Family in 1850 is Lydia Starlin aged 14 years. It is assumed that Lydia is related to Mary, due to Mary's maiden name being Starlin.

Records received from the National Archives Trust Fund in Washington D.C. indicate:

Enlisted September 4th, 1862 in Cincinnati, Hamilton County Ohio, Occupation Carpenter by Lt L. G. Brown, aged 44 years.

Company Muster Rolls indicate that he was present; however, he is shown as 'deserted at Nashville, Tenn, Feb 23, 1863. May of 1863 Muster Rolls show him present. From June of 1863 to February he is shown as absent an in hospital at Gallatin, Tennessee. In February 1864, he is moved to Louisville, Kentucky (Organization was formed from convalescent soldiers of various organizations under G. O. No 1, Headquarters Louisville Barracks, Kentucky, upon obtaining better health they could be returned to active service in their regiments.) In March, 1865 he is absent, sick at Camp Dennison, Ohio.

Army of the United States - Certificate of Disability for Discharge; Private James Merrill, of Captain Lewis G. Brown Company E of the 11th Ohio Regiment of the United States Infantry was enlisted by Captain Brown at Cincinnati, Ohio on the 4th day of September, 1861 to serve 3 years; he was born in St Lawrence County, in the State of New York, is 47 years of age, 5 feet 10 1/2 inches high, light complexion, blue eyes, brown hair, and by occupation enlisted as a \_\_\_\_\_; Station Louisville, Kentucky, May 29, 1865. Statement by Otis Hoyt, Post Surgeon: I certify, that I have carefully examined the said James Merrill, a private of Company # and find him incapable of performing the duties of a soldier because of an accidental puncture of the sternum by a heavy box of medical supplies falling upon him while in the line of his duty and service of the United States at Carthage Tennessee, June 1864. Also infirmities of age and general acuteness. He is over half disabled and his physical condition is not suitable for the enlistment in the veterans reserve corps.

Discharged the 5th day of June 1865, Barracks No. 1, Louisville, Kentucky. The soldier desires to be addressed at Town: Harrison, County: Hamilton; State: Ohio.

James Merrill is not found on the 1870 Census of Ohio or in Iowa where his wife is living, with their children.

Notes for MARY STARLIN:

On the 1860 Hamilton County Ohio, Harrison Township Census, Mary is shown as having an occupation of weaver.

Found on the United States Census 1870 Census in Oskaloosa Township, Mahaska County, Iowa. 8/4/1870 - 338-Line 11(aged 52), no reference to husband James. Living with her at this time are James, 24, day laborer; William, 20, working on farm; Mary Margaret, 18, at home. Living close by is Michael Starlin aged 50, born in Ohio with his family, Eunice, 51; Priscilla, 20; Carlton, 18. (It is assumed that Michael Starlin is Mary's brother).

Found on the United States Census 1900 Osborne County, Kansas, ED 108, Sheet 6a Line 31. Mary is shown to be 82 years old having been born in Ohio and is a widow, not working. Living with her at this time is her son, James (not married.) Found on Old Baptist Cemetery Records, Harrison Township, Hamilton County Ohio.

Children of JAMES MERRILL and MARY STARLIN are:

i. DAVID<sup>2</sup> MERRILL<sup>9</sup>, b. Abt. 1839, Ohio. Notes for DAVID MERRILL:  
David was found on the United States 1860 Census, Harrison Township, Hamilton County P 477, working as a laborer with Elkanoh Morgan who is a Carpenter.

ii. WILLIAM<sup>2</sup> MERRILL<sup>10</sup>, b. Abt. 1842, Ohio.

2. iii. ISRAEL<sup>2</sup> MERRILL, b. March 15, 1843, Harrison Township Ohio; d. February 06, 1907, Gridley, Kansas.

iv. JAMES<sup>2</sup> MERRILL<sup>11,12</sup>, b. Abt. 1845.

Notes for JAMES MERRILL:

Found on the 1900 United States Census Osborne County Kansas, ED 108 Sh6a Line 30. James is shown as 54 years old, living with his mother, Mary. Working as a farmer. The census indicates that he owns the farm. Found in Old Baptist Cemetery Records of Harrison Township, Hamilton County, Ohio.

v. MARGARET MERRILL<sup>13</sup>, b. Abt. 1852, Harrison Township, Hamilton County Ohio.

## ***Generation No. 2***

**2. ISRAEL<sup>2</sup> MERRILL** (*JAMES<sup>1</sup>*)<sup>14,15</sup> was born March 15, 1843 in Harrison Township Ohio, and died February 06, 1907 in Gridley, Kansas<sup>16</sup>. He married SARAH E. BIBEE<sup>17</sup> April 11, 1867 in Vermillion, Edgar County, Illinois<sup>18,19</sup>. She was born November 24, 1844 in, Tennessee, and died February 22, 1910 in Gridley, Kansas<sup>20</sup>.

Notes for ISRAEL MERRILL:

Also enumerated with Israel Merrill's Family in 1880 is a man named John Mortimer who shows as a boarder also working on the Railroad in Neosho Falls City, Kansas. 1880 Census

also shows the spelling of the last name to be Meril -- However this could be an error on the part of enumerator. Both his mother and father are shown to be born in Ohio.

Served in the I Company 5th Cav Reg. of Ohio. Enlisted 23 August 1864, Mustered out at Raleigh, North Carolina June 26, 1865. Aged 20 years at enlistment as a private. Served under the command of 1st Lt Elwood T. Niles.

Civil War records indicate this regiment fought in the following Civil War Battles (only listing those in which Israel was enlisted): Marietta, GA October 1864; Allatoona, GA October 1864; Sandersville, GA, Nov 1864; Buck Head Creek, GA Nov 1864; Lancaster, South Carolina March 1865; Fayetteville, NC March 1865; Monroes Cross, Soloman's Grove, Faison's Depot, Duram Station March/April 1865.

Volunteer Enlistment on 23rd day of August 1864 at Cincinnati, Ohio, 5th Regiment Ohio Cavalry, recruited from Harrison Township Hamilton County 2nd District of Ohio. Enlistment form states that Israel had grey eyes, brown hair, fair complexion and 5 feet 8-1/2 inches tall.

Ohio 5th Cavalry Descriptive Book aged 20 years and occupation as a laborer 8/23/1864 under the command of Captain Roberts. At the time of enlistment he was issued one haversack and 1 canteen.

Detachment Muster-Out Roll June 26, 1865 bounty paid \$33.33. Remarks: "Mustered out per G.O. No. 83. 1 pair of spurs and straps @ .52c, 1 horsebrush @ .75c. Agreed to pay back \$1.27.

According to "In The Beginnings" of Woodson County, Israel Merrill and his family were part of the founding families of the Wesley Chapel Methodist Church. In later years, his sons Will and Dan and their families were prominent members of this church founded in 1896.

In an application # 743842 to the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Pensions, dated Feb 21, 1890, Israel Merrill states that he enlisted on August 23, 1864 and served as private in Company I5 of the Regiment of the Ohio Cavalry, and was discharged at Raleigh, North Carolina on June 26, 1865. "It is also alleged that while on duty at Savannah Georgia on or about the Winter of 1864/5 he was disabled by catarrh disease of the respiratory organs, diarrhea, disease of the liver and stomach, treated by a surgeon." A response to this filing indicates that Israel did, indeed, serve in Company I 5th Regiment of the Ohio Cavalry, enrolled on August 23, 1864 and mustered out on June 28, 1865.

During that period the rolls show him present except on April 30, 1865 he was absent from duty, as Pioneer 3 Brig, 3rd Cav. Div. Other records furnish nothing additional bearing upon this case. There were no medical records found which show him being treated.

Found in THE GRIDLEY STAR, February 14, 1907:

We are sorry to hear of the death of Mr. Israel Merrill who died Wednesday night February 6, of heart failure, aged 63 years. He leaves a wife and five sons to mourn his loss. He was laid to rest in the Gridley Cemetery. The bereaved have the sympathy of all.

Coffey County Register of Deaths:

February 1907, P 43 Line 10; Israel was a Farmer at the time of death. Cause of death is recorded as Paralysis. D.W. Sanders Medical Doctor reporting the death.

More About ISRAEL MERRILL:

Burial: 1907, Gridley Cemetery, Gridley, KS<sup>21</sup>

Military service: Bet. 1864 - 1865, 5th Ohio Cavalry<sup>22</sup>

Occupation: Worked on Railroad Neosho Falls City, Woodson County, KS<sup>23</sup>

Notes for SARAH E. BIBEE:

Application for Civil War Widows Pension # 743842 Dec 14, 1889; # 865441 Nov 16, 1907;

Inscription on Headstone, Gridley, Kansas: "Gone but not forgotten."

Coffey County Register of Deaths: S.E. Merrill, died of Paralysis. Death reported by M.L. Stockton from Gridley, KS

More About SARAH E. BIBEE:

Burial: 1910, Gridley Cemetery, Gridley, KS

Occupation: 1880, Keeping House, Neosho Falls City, Woodson County Kansas<sup>23</sup>

Marriage Notes for ISRAEL MERRILL and SARAH BIBEE:

In Sarah's Widow's Pension Application she states that her marriage took place in Vermillion, Illinois. The service was performing by R. Holding, a Minister of the Gospel. This affidavit is signed by Dan Merrill and Maud Merrill, as well as Sarah. Address of record on this date. Vernon Rte 1, Woodson County, Kansas.

Children of ISRAEL MERRILL and SARAH BIBEE are:

3. i. WILLIAM<sup>3</sup> MERRILL, b. July 04, 1868, Paris, Illinois; d. November 28, 1929, Liberty Township, Yates Center Kansas.
- ii. JESSIE MERRILL<sup>24</sup>, b. Abt. 1870, Paris, Illinois.
4. iii. DANIEL MERRILL, b. October 03, 1872, Le Roy, Kansas; d. March 17, 1954, Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas.
5. iv. CHARLES MERRILL, b. September 1874, Kansas.
6. v. ISRAEL MERRILL, b. January 1877, Kansas.

*Generation No. 3*

**3.** WILLIAM<sup>3</sup> MERRILL (*ISRAEL*<sup>2</sup>, *JAMES*<sup>1</sup>)<sup>25,26,27</sup> was born July 04, 1868 in Paris, Illinois<sup>28</sup>, and died November 28, 1929 in Liberty Township, Yates Center Kansas<sup>29</sup>. He married

DORA BELLE CRAIG<sup>30,31</sup> Abt. 1893<sup>32</sup>, daughter of JAMES CRAIG and MARY BRANCH. She was born February 23, 1870 in Foster, Missouri<sup>33</sup>, and died September 02, 1935 in Liberty Township, Yates Center Kansas.

Notes for WILLIAM MERRILL:

1880 Census Records shows William living with his parents, 11 years old in Neosho Falls City, Woodson County, Kansas.

1900 United States Census shows William and Dora living in Weir City Kansas with no Children. William is employed as a Coal Miner. Dora shows as having 2 children but they are not living at the time of the Census.

1905 State of Kansas Enumeration shows that William and Dora now have a son, Danial, with 2 children not living. Wier City, Coal Miner.

1910 United States Census shows that the Family has moved to Woodson County Kansas, Yates Center. 3 children Danial, Claude and Clyde. This Census also shows that William's Mother is from Tennessee and his father from Ohio; aged 41 years, married 17 years.

1920 United States Census shows the Family in Woodson County Kansas, Yates Center. 3 children, Danial 15, Claude and Clyde aged 12; William aged 51, Dora 48. Also shows that William is the proprietor (owner) of a Cafe, Dora is listed as cook.

Census Records also show that William Merrill is from Illinois; his mother comes from Tennessee, Dora is from Missouri and her mother from Missouri.

Death Certificate Indicates that William was a Section Laborer on the Railroad for 8 years prior to his death at age 61.

More About WILLIAM MERRILL:

Occupation: 1910, Farmer<sup>34</sup>

Notes for DORA BELLE CRAIG:

Found on 1880 United States Census, Morgan County, Mowan Township, aged 10, at school.

Page 14 of In the Beginnings of Woodson County, Dora Merrill is shown as a member of Wesley Chapel Methodist Church and Ladies Aide Circle.

Place of Death; Brother-In-Law's Dan Merrill. Cause of Death: Cerebral Hemorrhage. Burial at LeRoy Cemetery, LeRoy, Kansas

Children of WILLIAM MERRILL and DORA CRAIG are:

i. PHONIE<sup>4</sup> MERRILL<sup>35</sup>, b. January 19, 1895, Kansas; d. February 02, 1895, Le Roy, Kansas<sup>35</sup>.

Notes for PHONIE MERRILL:

Inscription on Headstone: "Budded on earth to bloom in heaven", "Our Baby"

More About PHONIE MERRILL:

Burial: February 04, 1895, Le Roy, Kansas

ii. FRANK J. MERRILL<sup>35</sup>, b. November 15, 1896, Kansas; d. June 05, 1899, Le Roy, Kansas<sup>35</sup>.

More About FRANK J. MERRILL:

Burial: Le Roy Cemetery, Le Roy, Kansas

7. iii. DANIEL WILLIAM MERRILL, b. September 28, 1904, Weir City, Kansas; d. October 05, 1969, San Diego California.

8. iv. CLAUDE MERRILL, b. June 09, 1907, Cherokee County, Kansas; d. April 1970, El Sobrante, Contra Costa, California.

9. v. CLYDE MERRILL, b. June 09, 1907.

4. DANIEL<sup>3</sup> MERRILL (*ISRAEL*<sup>2</sup>, *JAMES*<sup>1</sup>)<sup>36,37,37</sup> was born October 03, 1872 in Le Roy, Kansa, and died March 17, 1954 in Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas<sup>3738,39</sup>. He married MAUDE ELLEN CRAIG<sup>40,41</sup> Abt. 1898 in Kansas<sup>42</sup>, daughter of JAMES CRAIG and MARY BRANCH. She was born July 05, 1878 in Foster, Missouri<sup>43,44</sup>, and died January 1977 in Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas.

Notes for DANIEL MERRILL:

Found on United States Census 1920, Woodson County, Yates Center on West Rutledge Street aged 47, Maude aged 44, working as a farm laborer. Also at home at this time are Walter, aged 21 working for the Postal Service, Harry aged 18.

Address of Record at time of Death: 709 South Pratt; retired Farmer. Funeral Services at Johnson Chappell, Miles Cook officiating.

Notes for MAUDE ELLEN CRAIG:

Found on 1880 United States Census, Morgan County, Mowan Twp, aged 1 year.

Page 14 of In the Beginnings of Woodson County, Maude Merrill is shown as a member of Wesley Chapel Methodist Church and Ladies Aide Circle.

SSN:Application dated 7/15/1943; aged 65 years; address of record Route 1 Yates Center Kansas.

Record of Funeral, Campbell Funeral Home, Yates Center indicates she had been a housewife and a restaurant worker.

Funeral Tuesday January 18, 1977 2:00pm Yates Center Cemetery, Clergyman Wendell Johnson;

Surviving relatives; Marilyn Ann Jones, Grand-daughter; Myran Clark, Granddaughter, Fulton CA; Bertha Merrill , Daughter-in-Law, Yates Center, Kansas

Address of Record at time of Death 801 S Fry Street, Woodson County KS. Died in Allen County

Hospital, Iola, KS.

More About MAUDE ELLEN CRAIG:

Burial: January 1977, Yates Center Cemetery Lot 12 N 1/2 Sec E

Children of DANIEL MERRILL and MAUDE CRAIG are:

i. WALTER DEWEY<sup>4</sup> MERRILL<sup>45</sup>, b. February 17, 1899, Gridley, Coffey County Kansas<sup>46</sup>; d. September 18, 1975, Yates Center, Kansas; m. BERTHA VICTORIA BRENKMAN<sup>47</sup>; b. September 30, 1905, Hilltop, Kansas; d. March 06, 1993, Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas.

Notes for WALTER DEWEY MERRILL:

Walter Merrill was the Rural Mail Carrier for the Vernon Post Office beginning in 1920, after his service in the Military in WWI. He took over the route from Otis Lynn, carrying mail via horseback, two wheeled cart and then by motorcycle. He was responsible for over 100 Mail Drops until it was discontinued in 1933 and replaced by RFD # 2 out of Yates Center. (Source: In the Beginnings: Woodson County) <

More About WALTER DEWEY MERRILL:

Burial: September 1979, Yates Center Cemetery 18 Section E

Social Security Number: SSN (not published. Ed.)

Notes for BERTHA VICTORIA BRENKMAN:

Worked at Tillies Dress Shop in Yates Center.

10. ii. HARRY RAYMOND MERRILL, b. October 17, 1901, Gridley, Coffey County Kansas.

5. CHARLES<sup>3</sup> MERRILL (ISRAEL<sup>2</sup>, JAMES<sup>1</sup>)<sup>48,49,50</sup> was born September 1874 in Kansas. He married LESSIE<sup>51</sup> in Abt 1897<sup>51</sup>. She was born November 1878 in Missouri.

Notes for CHARLES MERRILL:

Charles Merrill found on the 1910 United States Census aged 34 married 12 years to Lessie, aged 31 mother of 2 children, 2 children living; Walter aged 11, Chester aged 8, Charles is working as a coal miner.

More About CHARLES MERRILL:

Military service: World War 1 Veteran

Children of CHARLES MERRILL and LESSIE are:

i. WALTER<sup>4</sup> MERRILL<sup>51</sup>, b. September 1898.

More About WALTER MERRILL:

Military service: 1918, World War 1 Veteran

ii. CHESTER MERRILL<sup>52</sup>, b. Abt. 1902.

6. ISRAEL<sup>3</sup> MERRILL (ISRAEL<sup>2</sup>, JAMES<sup>1</sup>)<sup>53</sup> was born January 1877 in Kansas<sup>54</sup>. He married MAY<sup>55</sup> Abt. 1899. She was born April 1881 in Illinois.

Notes for ISRAEL MERRILL:

1900 Census Shows Israel (called Ara on the Census Record) as living next to his brother Charles in Cherokee County Township. Aged 23 years having been married 1 year.

More About ISRAEL MERRILL:

Occupation: 1900, Coal Miner, Cherokee Township, Cherokee County KS

Child of ISRAEL MERRILL and MAY is:

i. DELVA<sup>4</sup> MERRILL<sup>55</sup>, b. October 1899.

#### **Generation No. 4**

7. DANIEL WILLIAM<sup>4</sup> MERRILL (WILLIAM<sup>3</sup>, ISRAEL<sup>2</sup>, JAMES<sup>1</sup>)<sup>56</sup> was born September 28, 1904 in Weir City, Kansas<sup>57</sup>, and died October 05, 1969 in San Diego California. He married (1) MARGARET MARY CARRIVEAU<sup>58</sup> April 22, 1928 in Seattle, WA, St Alphonsis Church<sup>59</sup>, daughter of JOSEPH CARRIVEAU and CORDELIA RABOIN. She was born May 07, 1906 in Amberg, Villiage of Niagra, Wisconsin, and died December 15, 1949 in San Diego California. He married (2) BONNIE COUSINEAU Abt. 1950 in San Diego, California. She was born February 19, 1904 in unk, and died June 1982 in National City, CA.

Notes for DANIEL WILLIAM MERRILL:

Applied for Social Security Card when working at Bethlehem Steel in Seattle, WA on 11/25/36. The known address at that time was 6722 - 7th Avenue Northwest in Seattle. Grave side service Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery October 8th, 1969, 10:40am.

More About DANIEL WILLIAM MERRILL:

Burial: Ft Rosecrans, National Cemetery San Diego

Military service: CWO U S Marine Corps 30 years

Social Security Number: November 25, 1936, SSN (not published. Ed.)

Notes for MARGARET MARY CARRIVEAU:

Margaret was famous for her cooking, especially her Chocolate Cake. This cake is difficult to make but if done correctly it will please all:

### **Chocolate Cake: Margaret Carriveau Merrill**

1st: Melt 2 squares chocolate into 1/4 cup milk (whole milk). Bring to boil and simmer until mixture thickens -- cool.

2nd: Cream 1 1/2 cups sugar with 1/4 pound butter (1 cube). Add 3 eggs one at a time, 1 tsp vanilla and the chocolate mixture from step 1.

3rd: Sift dry ingredients: 2 cups flour, a pinch of salt, 1 rounded teaspoon of cream of tarter, 1 teaspoon baking soda.

4th: Add sifted ingredients to creamed mixture with 2/3 cup milk alternately with the flour last. (it's important that the creamed mixture is 1st, 2nd milk, third flour - repeat with the last step being the flour added.)

Prepare 2 round cake pans by greasing the sides and flouring the pans. As well, cut into the bottom of the pan parchment paper for ease of cake removal.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes. (do not overcook)

Frost with chocolate frosting made with butter, powdered sugar, vanilla and milk.

Marriage Notes: *The Seattle Post-Intelligencer*; Tuesday April 24, 1928; Section HH 22; Marriage Licenses; MERRILL-CARRIVEAU--Daniel W. Merrill, 23, Yates Center, Kansas, and Margaret Carriveau 20, Seattle.

*San Diego Union* Friday Dec 16, 1949; Pg B10: MERRILL, Margaret. Dec 15 Age 43 Wife of Daniel W. Merrill, mother of Mrs. Gloria Nelson and Richard Merrill. Arrangements pending. Pacific Beach Mortuary.

*San Diego Union* Saturday Dec 17, 1949; pg B6: MERRILL, Margaret, Dec 15, Age 43. Wife of Daniel W. Merrill, mother of Mrs. Gloria Nelson and Richard Merrill. Sister of Raymond Carriveau and Emmett Carriveau, 1 grandchild. Rosary 7 p m, Sunday, Pacific Beach Mortuary. Chaplain MJH McInness, Lt. USN officiating. Requiem Mass 8 am Monday at Marine Corps Recruit Depot Chapel, through gate 2, Interment Ft. Rosecrans.

Burial at 8 am Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. Lt. M.J.H. McInnes, Chaplain, United States Navy Officiating. Service at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot Chapel. Died at home 3990 Shasta Street, San Diego, CA. Rosary 7 pm Sunday Dec 17, 1949 At Pacific Beach Mortuary. Mass Monday 8am. Mass at St. Alphonsus, Sunday Jan 15th and every month during the year of 1950,

by Joseph and Cordelia Carriveau and Duvall Family by Father J.D. McGrath.

More About MARGARET MARY CARRIVEAU:

Burial: December 18, 1949, Ft Rosecrans, National Cemetery San Diego<sup>60</sup>

More About BONNIE COUSINEAU:

Burial: June 1982, Ft Rosecrans National Cemetery

Social Security Number: SSN (not published. Ed.)

Children of DANIEL MERRILL and MARGARET CARRIVEAU are:

i. WILLIAM RICHARD<sup>5</sup> MERRILL<sup>61</sup>, b. December 29, 1928, Seattle Washington; d. March 16, 1931, Seattle Washington<sup>62</sup>.

Notes for WILLIAM RICHARD MERRILL:

Burial at Calvary Cemetery. Service on Wed Mar 18, 1931. Father O'Brien from St. Alphonsis Parish in Seattle.(10:00am)

More About WILLIAM RICHARD MERRILL:

Baptism: December 1928, St Alphonsis Parish Seattle

Burial: March 18, 1931, Calvary Cemetery Gr2-L35-S18

Cause of Death: Bronchial Pnuemonia

ii. GLORIA LOUISE MERRILL<sup>63</sup>, b. March 15, 1930, Seattle Washington; m. (1) GORDON U NELSON, February 1948, Seattle, WA; b. 1930, Seattle Washington; m. (2) CLAYBOURN HENRY SWYMELE<sup>R</sup>, JR<sup>64</sup>, November 1951, San Diego, CA; b. June 03, 1931, St. Joseph, Missouri; m. (3) BILLY GENE SINOR<sup>65</sup>, 1953, San Diego, CA; b. November 21, 1926, Pryor Oklahoma; m. (4) HUGH FINNIGAN LOFLIN, July 17, 1970, National City, California; b. February 17, 1931, Humbolt, Texas.

iii. RICHARD RAE MERRILL, b. March 03, 1932, Seattle, WA; m. (1) RUTH ELIZABETH GRAHAM<sup>66</sup>, June 05, 1954, San Diego, CA<sup>66</sup>; b. Unknown; m. (2) MARCELLA WYMAN, March 31, 1985, Las Vegas, Nevada; b. August 01, 1929, Columbus, Ohio.

8. CLAUDE<sup>4</sup> MERRILL (WILLIAM<sup>3</sup>, ISRAEL<sup>2</sup>, JAMES<sup>1</sup>)<sup>67,68</sup> was born June 09, 1907 in Cherokee County, Kansas<sup>69</sup>, and died April 1970 in El Sobrante, Contra Costa, California. He married JESSIE. She was born May 23, 1909, and died July 1973 in Arkansas.

Notes for CLAUDE MERRILL:

Received Social Security Application 11/4/99. On the application it is recorded that Claude's Address was 3041 West Manning Street, Seattle, WA. He was working for Pacific Stove and Foundry, 1120 Idaho St in Seattle. Social Security Application applied for Jan. 6, 1937. (Parents listed same as Daniel Merrill) Location of Cherokee County vs Daniel Merrill's of Wier City, Kansas -- which is in Cherokee County.

Children of CLAUDE MERRILL and JESSIE are:

- i. GORDON<sup>5</sup> MERRILL, b. July 16, 1928<sup>70</sup>; d. November 1977<sup>71</sup>.
- ii. CLAUDEIA MERRILL.

9. CLYDE<sup>4</sup> MERRILL (WILLIAM<sup>3</sup>, ISRAEL<sup>2</sup>, JAMES<sup>1</sup>) was born June 09, 1907<sup>72</sup>. He married DORIS.

Children of CLYDE MERRILL and DORIS are:

- i. JUNE<sup>5</sup> MERRILL.
- ii. LEE MERRILL.
- iii. JOE MERRILL.

10. HARRY RAYMOND<sup>4</sup> MERRILL (DANIEL<sup>3</sup>, ISRAEL<sup>2</sup>, JAMES<sup>1</sup>)<sup>73</sup> was born October 17, 1901 in Gridley, Coffey County Kansas<sup>74</sup>. He married MAXINE. She was born April 17, 1909, and died November 18, 1969 in Yates Center, Woodson County, Kansas<sup>75</sup>.

Notes for HARRY RAYMOND MERRILL:

Attended School District No 38, Woodson County, Miss Grace Etter in 1911.

Retired Rural Mail Carrier.

Date of Funeral: Thursday November 4, 1976 2:00pm; Campbell Funeral Home, Reverend Timothy C. Yoon. Pallbearers: G.W. Lauber, Loren Cantrell, Enoch Light, William Oaks, Milton Schornick, Lyle Watts

More About HARRY RAYMOND MERRILL:

Burial: November 04, 1976, Yates Center Cemetery L41 N1/2 Sec G

More About MAXINE:

Burial: November 1969, Yates Center Cemetery L41 N1/2 Sec G

Child of HARRY MERRILL and MAXINE is:

i. MARILYN<sup>5</sup> MERRILL.

## Reference Sources:

1. United States Census. Harrison Township, Hamilton County Ohio 1850 Census, P 326 Ln 35
2. United States Census. 1860 Hamilton County Ohio, Harrison Township P43 Line 40, indexed as Roll 981 P468.
3. National Archives Trust Fund. Army of the United States Discharge Certificate, James Merrill of Harrison Twp, Hamilton County, Ohio. Dated May 29, 1865
4. United States Census Harrison Township, Hamilton County Ohio 1850 Census, P 326 Ln 36.
5. United States Census. 1860 Hamilton County Ohio, Harrison Township P44 Line 1, indexed as Roll 981 P468.
6. Marriage Records. Hamilton County Ohio Restored Courthouse Records, as indexed by Ann Bergelt, Florida
7. United States Census. United States Census 1900 Osborne County, Kansas, ED 108 Sheet 6A Ln 31
8. National Archives Trust Fund. Army of the United States Discharge Certificate, James Merrill of Harrison Twp, Hamilton County, Ohio. Dated May 29, 1865
9. United States Census. Harrison Township, Hamilton County Ohio 1850 Census, P 326 Ln 37
10. United States Census. Harrison Township, Hamilton County Ohio 1850 Census, P 326 Ln 40
11. United States Census. Harrison Township, Hamilton County Ohio 1850 Census, P 326 Ln 39
12. United States Census. United States Census 1900 Osborne County, Kansas, ED 108 Sheet 6A Ln 30
13. United States Census. 860 Hamilton County Ohio, Harrison Township P44 Line 3, indexed as Roll 981 P468.
14. United States Census. 1880 Volume 21 ED 65 Sh7 Ln 15, Woodson County, Neosho Falls City, Kansas
15. United States Census. Harrison Township, Hamilton County Ohio 1850 Census, P 326 Ln 38
16. Declaration for Invalid Pension Act of June 27, 1890. Dtd 16 Nov 1891 #755085
17. 1880 Volume 21 ED 65 Sh7 Ln 15, Woodson County, Neosho Falls City, Kansas United States Census.
18. Illinois Marriages 1851 - 1900; Author Jordon R. Dodd. On file Edgar County Genealogical Society.
19. Declaration for Widow's Pension. Dtd 3/11/1907; states married under the name of Sarah Bibee, Vermillion, IL on 4 November 1867.

20. Declaration for Widow's Pension.
21. Cemetery Records. Gridley Cemetery, Gridley, KS
22. Official Roster of the Soldiers of the State of Ohio.; Published 1886
23. United States Census. 1880 Volume 21 ED 65 Sh7 Ln 15, Woodson County, Neosho Falls City, Kansas
24. United States Census.1880 Volume 21 ED 65 Sh7 Ln 15, Woodson County, Neosho Falls City, Kansas
25. United States Census.. Woodson County Kansas T624-449 051-01470082 (Miracode) 1910
26. United States Census. 1880 Volume 21 ED 65 Sh7 Ln 15, Woodson County, Neosho Falls City, Kansas
27. Death Certificate. State of Kansas #104-1654 William Merrill, Aged 61 years 4 Mos 24 Days. Informant Claude Merrill
28. United States Census., 1900 Cherokee Township, Kansas, age 31, Married 7 years, William's mother born in Indiana.
29. Death Certificate. State of Kansas #104-1654 William Merrill, Aged 61 years 4 Mos 24 Days. Informant Claude Merrill
30. Social Security Application of Daniel William Merrill
31. United States Census. 1880 Morgan County Missouri Mowan Township ED 199 Page 1 Ln 21
32. United States Census.. Woodson County Kansas T624-449 051-01470082 (Miracode) 1910, shows married 17 years
33. United States Census., 1900, Cherokee Township, Kansas, aged 30 years, 2 children born to this union, none living.
34. United States Census. Woodson County Kansas T624-449 051-01470082 (Miracode) 1910
35. LeRoy Cemetery Records, LeRoy, Kansas.
36. Marilyn Merrill Jones Independance, KS,grand-daughter of Danial Merrill.
37. United States Census.
38. Cemetery Records. Yates Center Cemetery Records, Yates Center, Kansas Lot 12 N 1/2 Sec E
39. Record of Funeral Service. Campbell Funeral Home, Yates Center, Kansas, Record Number 10, March 18, 1954.
40. Marilyn Merrill Jones Independance, KS, neice of William Merrill.
41. United States Census. 1880 Morgan County Missouri Mowan Township ED 199 Page 1 Ln 21
42. United States Census.. Woodson County Kansas T624-449 051-01470082 (Miracode) 1910 shows married 12 years
43. United States Census.. Woodson County Kansas T624-449 051-01470082 (Miracode) 1910
44. Social Security Application. 514 20 6758 Dtd July 15, 1943; Aged 65 years; POB shown as Versailles, MO.
45. United States Census.. Woodson County Kansas T624-449 051-01470082 (Miracode) 1910
46. SSDI. Social Security Application SSN (not published. Ed.) 1/20/1960, aged 60 years living at Box 5 Yates Center, KS
47. Record of Funeral Service. Campbell Funeral Home, Yates Center, KS No 18 Page 88, 3/9/1993.
48. United States Census. 1880 Volume 21 ED 65 Sh7 Ln 15, Woodson County, Neosho Falls City, Kansas
49. United States Census. 1900 Volume 7 ED 15 Sh5 Ln 75 Cherokee Township, Cherokee County, Kansas
50. United States Census. 1910 Cherokee County, Cherokee Twp, ED 14 Sh 16a, ln 50

51. United States Census. 1900 Volume 7 ED 15 Sh5 Ln 75 Cherokee Township, Cherokee County, Kansas
52. United States Census. 1910 Cherokee County, Cherokee Twp, ED 14 Sh 16b
53. United States Census. 1880 Volume 21 ED 65 Sh7 Ln 15, Woodson County, Neosho Falls City, Kansas
54. United States Census. 1900 Volume 7 ED 15 Sh5 Ln 75 Cherokee Township, Cherokee County, Kansas
55. United States Census. 1900 Volume 7 ED 15 Sh5 Ln 75 Cherokee Township, Cherokee County, Kansas
56. Social Security Application 531-05-7497. Filed 11/25/1936 from Bethlehem Steel Company, Seattle, WA
57. Cherokee County Kansas Register of Births. Danial shown as 4th born to this Union, Wier City Kansas. Age of Mother 34; Age of Father 36. (no other living issue, indicating 3 children died before Dan)
58. Margaret Mary Carriveau Birth Certificate. Certificate #499, born Wednesday May 7th, 1906 @ 227PM, Niagra, Marrinette County, Wisconsin, Village of Amberg Date of Registration October 25th, 1906
59. St Alphonsis Church Records, Seattle, WA.
60. San Diego Union. Obituary Saturday December 17, 1949; Pg B6
61. Calvary Cemetery Records, No. 10047, Born Seattle Wa 12/29/28 Died 3/16/31.
62. Washington State Dept of Vital Statistics.; Death Record, William Richard Merrill, (M2) 3-16-31 Certificate # 985.
63. Birth Certificate Gloria L. Merrill, Ballard General Hospital 1930.
64. Ed Schweikhardt 5th G-Grandson Andrew Swymiller, Jr. Family Group Sheet.
65. From Son, Roy Sinor Family Group Sheet 8/3/99.
66. Family Group Sheet Richard Rae Merrill.
67. Social Security Application. SSDI 8/31/99
68. Cherokee County Kansas Register of Births. Twins, Claude/Clyde parents age at the birth Dora 37, William 39.
69. Cherokee County Kansas Register of Births.; June 9, 1907, Wier City, twin child
70. Social Security Application. SSN (not published. Ed.)
71. SSDI. Social Security Death Index, record located 1/26/2000
72. Cherokee County Kansas Register of Births. Weir City, June 9, 1907; twin birth
73. United States Census.. Woodson County Kansas T624-449 051-01470082 (Miracode) 1910
74. Record of Funeral Service. Campbell Funeral Home Record Dtd 4/4/1976; Yates Center Kansas
75. Cemetery Records. Yates Center Cemetery Record; Yates Center, Kansas

*Anyone wishing to contact me may do so at [rsarvest@home.com](mailto:rsarvest@home.com). As with any genealogical work, suggestions and corrections requested with pleasure.*

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# QUERIES

by Howard and Jean Merrill

**Query:** Mary Stubbs submitted the following: Benjamin Wolcott and Elizabeth Merrill Wolcott were parents of Emily Wolcott. Emily was born on May 10, 1817. She married Peter Randolph in Litchfield Pa. in 1838. I am trying to find the Randolph side.

**Query:** John Hanrahan wrote: I'm concerned that I put the most accurate dates in the book I'm preparing for the family; however, of all the sources I've seen, I see many dates that are not the same. Can you help? Here is the line:

1 Thomas Meryell 1444 - 1480 +Unknown (Mrs. Thomas Meryell) 1444 -....  
 .. 2 John Meryell, Sr. 1475 - 1528/29 +Anne Belcham 1475 - 1528  
 .... 3 John Meryell 1495 - 1551/52 +Katherine John 1507 - 1551  
 ..... 4 John Merrell, The Younger 1545 - 1599/00 +Prudence Bird 1548 - 1609  
 ..... 5 Nathaniel Merrill 1571 - 1626/27 +Mary Blaxall/Blaxsol 1574 - 1624  
 ..... 6 Nathaniel Merrill 1601 - 1654/55 +Susannah Wolterton 1610 -  
 1672/73  
 ..... 7 Nathaniel Merrill 1634 - 1682/83 +Joanna Ninian 1628 - 1717/18  
 ..... 8 John Merrill 1663/64 - 1705 +Lucy Webster 1664 - 1718  
 ..... 9 John Merrill 1696 - 1773 +Lydia Haines 1705 - ???  
 ..... 10 Thomas Merrill 1723/24 - 1788 +Phebe Abbot 1727 - 1755  
 ..... 11 Amos Merrill 1753 - ??... +Lois Willey 1755 - ??.....  
 ..... 12 Samuel W. Merrill, Sr. 1800 - 1862 +Martha Green 1806 -  
 1872  
 ..... 13 Silas Merrill 1831 - 1913 +Margaret A. Weaver 1835  
 --1915

**Query:** Wendy B\_\_\_\_ wrote and gave a lot of data on Jones and Timmins families of MS and also this data relating to Merrills. S. R. Jones Sr. [possibly a Doctor] from Carroll Co, MS, had a daughter Virginia Jones born in 1847 who married John D.M. MERRILL. She had 5 children but the twins died soon after birth. Virginia Jones Merrill died in 8-27-1895 in Hemmingway Mississippi and was buried in the Merrill Cemetery in Carroll County. Dr. S.R. Jones also had a son, Paul Lee Jones, born in 1860. Paul Lee Jones adopted the 2 children of John Merrill after John Merrill dies in 1898. The surviving children were Kate Claire Merrill, and Paul Jones Merrill.

She was not sure if this Jones was related to her Jones and Timmins families.

**Query:** E.T. (Ted) Hunter said I think we have covered some of this before, but I have some new conjectures! My son-in-law, Daniel F. Merrill is the source of my interest in the Merrill family. His line is: Daniel F. Merrill, Sr. (b. 1935, Allegan, MI); Frank Joseph Merrill, (b. 1891, Danville, IL); Frank Augustus Merrill (b. 1862, Sullivan Co., IN); Joseph L. Merrill (b. about 1809, MD). Now the conjecture. A Joseph Merrill, d. 1783 in MD, left a will. In it are named his wife, Elizabeth, dau. Sarah (md. Henderson), Jesse, William, Arthur and Levi. Levi's son looks like he could also be a Joseph. Now, for my Joseph L. Merrill-- could the L. be Levi, or Levin? Could he be the son or grandson of the above Joseph? Reasonable, but NO proof whatever! Any ideas?

**Query:** Bruce Pusch wrote saying: I am looking for ancestral information for Mary Merrill who was born 9/1/1750 in Stafford, CT. She married Jonathan Alden on 3/30/1769 in Conway, MA.. Jonathan Alden, a descendent of John Alden of the Mayflower, was born on 6/6/1747 also in Stafford, CT. I don't know when or where Mary died or who her parents were.

**Query:** Connie Schachel of Sheboygan, WI said: After many years, I believe I have finally crossed the bridge between the six generations of Merrills in my database and the descendants of Nathaniel, Abraham<sup>2</sup>, David<sup>3,4</sup>, Winthrop<sup>5</sup>, John<sup>6,7</sup>, the latter my GGG Grandfather, John Merrill, and second wife, Sarah Cady, born 1797, and died in 1886, Geneva, Nebraska (Merrill Memorial says 1866 - an error, I believe). Is there more information available on John<sup>7</sup>? I have evidence he lived (for a time) in Indiana where he was a land owner and served as postmaster of the Crooked Lake station, before moving on to Nebraska. I am happy to share the information I've gathered. I have no data on first wife, or children of that union. Second wife, Sarah, was 20-years younger than John<sup>7</sup>. Together they had six surviving children. Where can I go to find info on birthplace for John<sup>7</sup>, name of first wife, and date of their marriage, names of their children?

**Query:** Debra Hanna stated: Our Merrill connection, as researched by my brother at the Hartford State Library, is Nathaniel Merrill (1618-1683) (wife Susannah not sure of last name), son John Merrill (1635-1712) wife Sarah Watson, son Wilterton Merrill (1675-1755) wives Hannah Waters and Ruth Pratt, son Gideon (?- 1757) wife Mary Bigelow, son Nathaniel (1742-1820) wife Hannah Belton, daughter Hannah Merrill (1806-1873).. Hannah married Ebenezer Spencer (1801-) Their daughter was Julia Spencer, her daughter was Lucy Perkins (my great, great grandmother) Lucy and Algernon Sydney Harrison Ford had a daughter, Susan Jane Ford, who married Harry Stocking and they had my mom. They lived in Winsted, Ct. Do you have any stories or info on Merrills, or others? My mom is 89 years old and loves stories about her

ancestors.

**Query:** Beth Merrill Clymer posted to the Guest Book. Looking to find family roots going back beyond Joshua Russell Merrill, b. in Chilli, Coshocton Co. Ohio, May 21, 1832, married to Synthia DeBerry, b. July 28, 1832. I have a note that his father was William Merrell from Snow Heights, Maryland but no proof. I have pictures of Joshua Russell at his home plus his obituary, and lots of pictures of the family going forward. My ggrandfather was his son, William Jackson Merrill, born 25 Jan 1857, married to Lydia McAllister (maybe Coats) Jan 3, 1886 in Silver Creek, NB. My grandfather was Orville Merrill and my father, William H. Merrill. William Jackson Merrill and Lydia Ann apparently spent most of their lives in Patricksburg, Indiana. I show Lydia was born 28 March 1866 in Patricksburg and died 29 March 1949 in Indianapolis. My father always said that she was half Indian, any knowledge of her origins? Hope you can help.

**Query:** Gloria Konikoff is searching for the marriage record and death dates for Lucy MERRILL, dau of John & Lucy (Webster) MERRILL, early of Newbury, then Haverhill, Essex Co., MA and her husband Benjamin STANLEY, b. 1673, Topsfield, Essex Co., MA, son of Matthew and Ruth (Andrews) STANLEY. Benj. & Lucy were members of West Parish Church of Haverhill, where their children were baptized. Their children: Ruth, bapt. 17 Sept. 13, 1713 (m. Wm. PETERS); Joseph, b. 26 Jan., 1718; Matthew, b. 22 June, 1718 (m. Mary PUTNEY of Woburn); Ann, b. 2 Dec., 1720 (m John VARNUM); Elizabeth, bapt. 30 April, 1721 (m. Edward BACON); Rebecca, b. 18 Mar., 1723 and John, bapt. 24 Sept., 1726. Have found no record for Benjamin & Lucy (Merrill) Stanley after 1745. Will gladly share information. Would appreciate any assist whatsoever.

**Query:** Tom Jennings said " I am looking for the parents of Samuel Robbin Merrill, b. 3/1/1822 in Conesus, New York. He married Elenor Dunning and they had eleven children, one of which was Mortimer Eugene Merrill. He is my great grandfather. Any information would be helpful."

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## QUERIES AND ANSWERS

by Howard and Jean Merrill

**Query:** Patricia Castle wrote: I am searching for information on Robert Leslie Merrill, b. 11-25-1898 Mobile, AL who married Helen Sadie Parker b. 3-28-1916, b. Escawtawpa, MS. Robert Leslie Merrill's father was Robert Merrill married to Isabel. Robert Leslie died April 1975 Grand Bay, AL. Helen S. Parker died Independence, MO July 1997.

**Answer:** We looked in the 1870 census for AL and MS for a likely candidate for Robert, Robert Leslie's father. The only young Robert was in Crenshaw Co, AL, and we know he was NOT the father of Robert Leslie. We have not yet read the 1880 census where we would really expect to find Robert Leslie's father as a child. The 1900 census or Soundex for Mobile is where we would start, if we were going to do a search for him and work back from there.

In our files there is a Robert L b. 1873 [probably in Hopkins Co KY] that has roots in AL that we know nothing about. We have been unable to locate his father, Chapman N, in the 1850, 60, or 70 census. Chapman was b. in Limestone Co AL in 1843, but his widowed mother moved, first to Lincoln Co TN, then to Hopkins Co KY, after the 1849 death of her husband, William Roland, of illness contracted earlier in the Mexican War. Chapman m. both his wives in Hopkins Co KY and d. there in 1903. We do not even know if this Robert L survived to marry. We hesitate to suggest that he might be the father of your Robert Leslie, for we have nothing but name similarity, approximately correct age, and a remote AL connection to imply a possible connection. But trying to prove it wrong might lead us to the truth. Chapman N (8)'s lineage is William R (7), John (6), Benjamin (5), Andrew (4), Capt. Benjamin (3), William (2,1).

**Query:** Chuck Merrill wrote: I'm just getting started with this research. I have several documents, one of which is quite detailed, particularly on the branches. I'm listing my lineage ( starting with Nathaniel in the thought that it may be interesting to you.

### Generation Name Information

- 1 Nathaniel Merrill Born in 1601. Emigrated to America in about 1633
- 2 Daniel Merrill Son of Nathaniel. b. August 20, 1642.
- 3 John Merrill Son of Daniel. b. October 7, 1674.
- 4 Thomas Merrill Son of John. b. December 18, 1708, Salisbury, MA
- 5 Samuel Merrill Son of Thomas. b. August 4, 1728.
- 6 Abel Merrill Son of Samuel. b. June 6, 1748.
- 7 Abel Merrill Son of Abel. b. May 26, 1775 in Buxton, ME
- 8 Thomas Abel Merrill Son of Abel. b. April 14, 1810.
- 9 Abel Monroe Merrill Son of Thomas Abel. b. May 2, 1847 Turner, ME

10 Charles Sumner Merrill Son of Abel Monroe. b. January 4, 1879 Grinnell, IA

11 Charles Sumner Merrill, Jr. Son of Charles Sumner b. Sept. 5, 1912 in Craig CO

12 Charles Sumner III Son of Charles Sumner b. Oct. 18, 1941 N. Y., NY

There you have it - a simple version. How can I help get all the rest of the information that I have in the hands of anyone who may be interested?

**Answer:** Thanks for sending your line. Just the other night we downloaded IA Cemetery Records, and among them was the record of Thomas (8)'s death, 1885 Jan 10, in Grinnell IA; Also his wife and his brother, Samuel [who was Gov. of IA]. We also have the census records of this family down through 1870 where we found Abel Monroe, 23, and wife Anna (\_\_\_?\_\_\_), 22, in Bloomfield, Winneshick, IA. We haven't read 1880 yet. We would appreciate a Gedcom of the descendants of Thomas Abel.

**Query:** Stephanie Sampson asked: I'm looking for the identity of the second spouse of Mariah Southard whom I know to be only "Mr. Merrill." The couple lived in Blair, Somerset Co., Maine. It is documented that Mariah Southard married a [Mr.] Merrill, but I know nothing more about him than his last name. Mariah Southard was born between about 1845-1855 in Somerset Co., Maine (probably Ripley, St. Albans or Norridgewock). She was a daughter of John Southard and Louisa Sampson. John Southard's second marriage was to Louisa Sampson, his first having been to Fannie Gulliver/Gullifer. Mariah had 23 siblings between his father's two marriages and her father, John Southard, died at age of 103. Mariah's mother, Louisa Sampson, was a daughter of Noah and Ruth Sampson; Noah is thus far the earliest known patriarch of this Sampson line.

Mariah Southard would probably have married Mr. Merrill around 1870 or so and begun having children shortly thereafter. I'd like to know whether Mariah Southard and Mr. Merrill had any children and their descendants as well, if possible. I'm looking for any connections to any of the above individuals and hopefully to identify this elusive "Mr. Merrill."

**Answer:** We do not have record of Mariah Southard's 2nd m. to a Merrill in ME. Who did she m. 1st? In the vital records, she would be listed by her first husband's surname. In ME the recording of b., m., & d. was not required until 1892, so records before that are spotty, some towns sent in very good records, while others sent in none at all. After 1892, even the bride and grooms parents are listed, but that doesn't help much for a m. ca 1870. We do not have a m. from the ME vital records which lists the wife as Mariah anything.

Do you know when and where Mariah died? The death record might give both her parents name and her Merrill spouse. It doesn't always give the spouse's name if she was a widow at the time of her death.

In the 1870 census we found a Mariah, 25, and husband, Joel, 23, but they were in Andover, Oxford Co, ME, not Somerset Co, so we question if this is your Mariah. This is Joel L (8) and the vital records give her name as Hannah M Marston at their m. 1868 Dec 19 in Rumford. They had at least 3 children 1888 - 1893 in Andover.

We do have a Mary Southard who m. a George Arthur Merrill in 1880, and Mary d. in 1883. This doesn't look like your Mariah, because George, 14, was in Rutland VT in 1870, and the

family later moved to St. Paul, MN. We do not know where George and Mary m.

We haven't yet read the 1880 census, where we would expect to find Mariah and her husband and any children.

**Query:** Richard Swymeler wrote: My grandfather was Daniel William Merrill was a Marine Corps Warrant Officer for 30+ years and the father to my Mother, Gloria. I have been slowly going back generation by generation, collecting as much information I can find. Right now this is what I can verify through Census Records, Birth & Death Records.

Richard - Me

+Gloria Merrill - 1930 -

+Daniel William Merrill 1904-1969 (Wier City, KS - San Diego, CA)

+William Merrill 1868 - 1929 (Paris, IL - Yates Center, KS)

+Israel Merrill (ca. 1843, Harrison, Ohio - 1909 Gridley, KS) [Israel was a volunteer in the I Company 5th Cav Reg. of Ohio. Enlisted 23 Aug. 1864, Mustered out at Raleigh, NC June 26, 1865]

+ James Merrill ( Found on 1850 Census Harrison, Hamilton, OH, age 35, b. NY )

This is the extent of my research. I am wondering if you have any information of Merrill Family from NY that migrated to OHIO??

**Answer:** We also have your James in the 1850 census and unfortunately he is in our Lineage Unknown file. In 1860, he is still in Harrison OH; James, 45; Mary, 42; Israel, 16; William, 10; Margaret, 8. We do not know what has become of sons, David and James.

We think we found his widow, Mary, 52; James, 24; William, 20; and Mary M [Margaret?], 18, in Oskaloosa, Mahaska, IA in 1870. Apparently James Sr has d., but we do not know if it was in OH or IA. We have not found son Israel in 1870 - maybe we [or the census indexer] missed him in Paris IL. There is a David still in Harrison, OH [a horse doctor], but he only claims to be 24, whereas son David should be 31 from the 1850 census. We have not yet read any of the 1880 census.

We do not know who James's parents were. There were so many Merrills that came through NY in the early 1800s, and the NY records for that period are so sparse. We really need to know where in NY he was b. for the census records to be any help in determining his parents. Perhaps if we knew where and when he d., there might be a will or an obit that would give his birthplace. There were 11 James Merrills from OH in the Civil War - perhaps he d. in the war, since we know he was gone by 1870. It would be interesting if one of these James' enlisted from the same place as son Israel. Two of the James were also in the Cavalry, but in different units than Israel. If James d. in the war, wonder if Mary filed for a pension?

**Query:** Jane Pratt of Dover MA asked: Could you refer me to a record of Abel Merrill, b. in Newbury, MA, who married Priscilla Chase, b. 1648. Their son, James, b. 1688, married

Mary Adams, b.1700. I am working on the Merrill and Adams connections. Susanna Merrill, b.1739, married Moses Adams, b. 1737. I have become very confused on all the Merrill-Adams connections and am hoping for some help! I could also use information on Abraham Merrill b.1637, (Abel's brother). Did Abraham have a daughter Sarah, B. 1677, who married Benjamin Morse b.1668?-- or, is it James daughter, Susanna, b.1673, who married Benjamin? My gggrandfather, Silas Merrill Adams b. 1809, is the son of Moses Adams, Jr. Thank you .

**Answer:** You have the Merrill-Adams connections correct. We are sending you family group sheets for immigrant Nathaniel, sons Abraham and Abel, and grandson James.

We don't follow the Merrill daughter's after they marry, but A Merrill Memorial [the best reference for the early Merrills] does give Susanna's and Moses Adams' children, including your Moses Adams jr. [1776 Apr. 16 - 1859 Nov. 26] who m. Sarah Skillings - four children [not listed]. Moses Adams sr. was the son of John and Elizabeth (Morse) Adams.

**Query:** Denise Carter wrote: I am originally from Hopewell, NJ. My ggggrandfather was Charles Merrill (27 Sep 1800 - 29 Nov 1874) who married Sarah Ann Christopher (8 Aug 1804 - 23 Feb 1881). Their son W(h)estley Burroughs Merrill (31 Jul 1826 - ?) was my gggrandfather. He was a blacksmith in Mount Rose (and later Hopewell), NJ. During the Civil War he was commissioned as a captain and his job was to recruit and train troops. He remained at home and we have many wonderful letters his men wrote to him. Several of the letters were addressed to "Blackbird". Westley married Mary Ellen Sutphen (25 Oct 1829 - 21 Mar 1865). They had the following children: Charles Emmet (24 Jul 1850 - ?), Emily Josephene (27 Apr 1852 - Oct 1867), Mary Anna (18 Jul 1854 - ?), James Buchanan (16 Oct 1856 - ?), Willie Gray (b and d Dec 1859), Harriett Van Winkle (7 Sep 1863 - 22 Oct 1863) and finally my ggrandmother Kate Christopher (7 Nov 1864 - 17 Mar 1955).

Obviously, I would like to know - who was Charles' father? I wonder if it could have been William (30 Mar 1769), son of Thomas (19 Apr 1732 - 12 May 1798)? The dates, places and occupations seem to fit. Any help, hints or advice would be greatly appreciated.

**Answer:** Thank you for sending your query on Charles. You included a number of details that we did not have on him and his son Westley.

It is indeed unfortunate that the early census [1790-1820] for NJ are not available. That data would likely have shed some light on the possible parents of your Charles. We really don't have proof positive of his parents, but we had tentatively assigned him as the son of Benjamin [ca 1770 - 1847] and Rebecca Titus [b. 1772 Dec 12, d/o Samuel and Rebecca (Johnson) Titus]. In the 1830 census, the only Merrills still in Hopewell are Benjamin and your Charles. Blacksmithing seems to have been a family trade - Benjamin, Charles, and Westley B were all blacksmiths.

While we can't rule out the William [1769-1833] and Jane Anderson [1774-1859] you referred to, they were in Amwell in 1830 and both d. there. We have 7 children for them - we don't have dates for them all, but the m. dates for two of the girls, 1818 and 1820 suggest

birth dates that might be in conflict with Charles's 1800 birth.

Even if we are correct in our assignment of Benjamin and Rebecca Titus [m. 1796 Mar. 9] as Charles's parents, it doesn't help a great deal, because we don't know who Benjamin's parents were. There appears to be two generation gap back to immigrant William (1) where we just don't know what the connection is. William (1) and brother Richard (1) came to Staten Island ca 1680. William bought land there in 1683 and with wife Grace [probably Staats] sold in 1687, moved first to Middletown NJ, and then in 1704 to Hopewell where he d. in 1724.

William (1) had four sons, William, Benjamin, Joseph and Thomas. William (2) had three sons; Benjamin, William, and Thomas Stout. Benjamin (3) and William (3) went to the "Jersey settlement" in Rowan Co NC where Capt. Benjamin (3) was hanged for opposing the tyrannical policies of Gov. Tyron. Thomas Stout (3) [1732 Apr 19 - 1798 May 12] was in Amwell for the Rev. census in 1776 and on the tax list there in 1780, but he died in Montgomery Co NY. At least two of his sons, Isaac and John are known to gone with Thomas Stout to Montgomery Co NY, but son William [1769] stayed in Amwell.

Much less is known of the other three sons of William (1). Benjamin (2) inherited half of his fathers estate in 1724, he was on the tax list in 1722 and was still on the land in 1764. He d. 1786 in Hopewell and [presumably son] John was the administrator of the estate. Other possible sons were Benjamin and David, who were listed in the 1st Regiment of the Hunterdon Co Militia. It is possible that the Benjamin who m. Rebecca Titus is the son of Benjamin (3), but this is pure speculation. Thomas (2) was m. and an established farmer by 1722 and he or his son Thomas may be the Thomas mentioned by Ege as having a blacksmith shop in Hopewell in the 1760's. Joseph (2) was not m. by 1722, but must have m. soon thereafter. He settled on the other half of his fathers estate. He was a Constable in Hopewell in 1733, a freeholder in 1741, but by 1746 had moved to Bethlehem Twp. and was still there in 1757. It is clear from the records that these sons had families and their children had families. By the Revolution there were numerous Merrills in Hunterdon Co, but by 1800 most of them had moved away. There are lots of Merrills listed in the 1700-1800 records, but little to indicate how they were related. Bob Davidson has done the most thorough study of these early records. Much of his work is posted on Pat Paterson's homepage at [www.patpnyc.com/davidson.shtml](http://www.patpnyc.com/davidson.shtml)

Sorry that we've rambled on so, probably an indication that we really don't know the answer, but maybe we have shed a little light on the subject. We would be interested in any further info you may have on the MERRILL surname descendants of Charles.

**Query:** My great grandmother, Dorothy Edith Merrill (1898-1983) was the daughter of Judson Ulysses Merrill (1873-1934) and Olive Clapp. Judson was the son of Myron E. Merrill (1845-1920) and Emily Linwood. Myron's father was (I believe) Noble Merrill and Jane Corning.

Much of what I thought I knew, I have found to be UNtrue while researching. For instance, I believed that Myron was from Springfield, MA, but it seems that he was actually born in

Canada. One of his children was born in Canada, the next in Vermont and the last in Canada (again). My great grandmother was definitely born in West Springfield, MA.

Anyway, Noble (possibly from New York) is the farthest back I have been able to go. I would be happy to share my more recent genealogy finding with you if you are interested. And if you have ever heard of my Noble Merrill, I'd love to hear back.

**Answer:** Thank you for your Query to the Newsletter. The data you sent has provided the links that allowed us to pull several from our "lineage unknown" file and put them in our "lineage known" file along with your Noble.

We found your Noble (7) in the 1871 census of Compton, Quebec, Canada: Noble, 49; Jane, 47; Polly, 19; Harry, 21; Harriet, 16; Alice, 13; Emma, 16, all b. Quebec except Jane, b. US. We didn't find Noble in either the 1851, 1861, or 1881 census of Compton, but they may have been in some other small town in the area. We were very limited in our search time in Ottawa, and only got to look at the census for Stanstead, Compton and Eaton. Myron E, at 26, was already m. and out of the family group by 1871. We are curious about Myron's wife Emily Linwood's name. Could Linwood be her middle name, not her surname? We have from the VT vital records, the m. of Myron E, who resides Compton Quebec, and Emily L Merrill, 1867 July 21 in Middlebury, Addison Co, VT. The m. record does not give their ages. The West Springfield, MA records indicate Myron was b. 1845, and Emily in 1837. In 1860, we find an Emily, 22, schoolteacher, in Derby, VT, right across the border from Stanstead, Quebec. If this is the Emily who marries Myron [she is the only Emily of the right age in VT], why would they go all the way to Addison Co to get married, unless that is where her folks are? In 1850, in Weybridge, Addison Co VT, we find Emily, 14, and her siblings with her parents, Solomon (7), 36; and Clarissa Kingsley, 35. If our lineage designations are correct, Solomon (7) and Noble (7) are brothers, which would make Myron E and Emily L, 1st cousins. In 1871, Solomon is living next door to Noble in Compton Quebec.

There is not specific data that ties Noble and Solomon to their father, John Carver Jr (6), but we feel pretty confident, despite a lot of missing data because these folks went back and forth across the border seemingly at will. Both John Carver Sr (5) and Jr (6) went by John, or Carver, or John Carver which makes for great confusion in the records. We will try to lay it out as we see it so it won't be too confusing.

John Carver Jr was b. in Bath NH ca 1784 [dates from census go from 1781 to 1787] to John Carver Sr and Ruth Cleveland. We don't know the name of his 1st wife, but they were m. ca 1808. In 1810 they were listed in Bath [both 16-26] with 1 son [under 10]. We do not know when they left Bath for Canada. The 1820 Grafton Co NH census burned so we don't have the Bath census for that year, but they may have already been in Canada. We know they were in Canada at least from 1822 [Noble's birth] to at least 1835 [Martha's birth]. The next census in which we find John Carver Jr is 1840 in Stockholm, St. Lawrence Co NY: Carver, [50-60]; wife, [40-50]; 1f [under 5]; 2f [5-10]; 1m,1f [10-15]; 1m,1f [20-30]. Apparently Noble at 18 is already working out of the household. In 1850, in Stockholm, we find Carver, 63, b. NH; his 2nd wife, Harriet, 43, b. VT; Jane, 18; Martha, 15, both b. Canada. In 1860, still in Stockholm, Carver gives his age as 79, Harriet as 53. We haven't read 1870 NY yet.

The children we have for John Carver Jr are: Benjamin, ca 1809, Bath; Nelson B, ca 1811, Bath; Solomon, ca 1813, Bath; Polly; David, [dates and location unknown]; Noble ca 1822, Quebec; John; Cynthia, [dates unknown, probably Quebec]; Jane, ca 1832, Quebec; Martha, ca 1835, Quebec. The 1840 census indicates there may be at least one more girl. Apparently all the children are by the first wife.

John Carver Sr (5) was b. 1746 May 7 in Haverhill MA, s/o Joseph and Ruth Corliss. He m. Ruth Cleveland, 1771 Aug 22 in Haverhill, MA. They are listed in the census in Bath in 1800 and 1810, The children we have for them are: Joseph ca 1782; John Carver Jr, ca 1784; Ebenezer, ca 1786; Ruth, Nancy, [dates unknown], all b. Bath. The rest of the lineage is pretty straightforward, Joseph (4), Nathaniel (3,2,1).

We would be interested in any more details you have, dates, locations, spouses, children, siblings, etc. from Noble down through Dorothy Edith or any other Merrill surname info you may have uncovered in your search. We don't follow the daughters after we get them married. We realize their kids are just as much Merrill as the sons kids, but with info on over 40,000 Merrill males plus wives and daughters, we had to draw the line somewhere and chose to stick to just the Merrill surname.

Hope this helps. Maybe with someone else working on this line we may find confirmation of this lineage. Sure would be nice to find the will of John Carver Jr.

**Query:** Lynne Welch of Los Angeles CA wrote: Nathaniel Merrill (b. 1823 Bartlett, NH) and Harriet A. Thomas (b. 1831 NH) are my great grandparents. Apparently they were m. Aug 1857 in Conway, NH. Need death places as well as information on their respective parents.

**Answer:** Nathaniel (7) m. Harriet A Aug. 26 1857 in Conway NH [We read Harriet's surname as Thorns in the NH vital records but that could very easily be Thomas, handwriting being as it often is]. Nathaniel is the son of Samuel and Dorcas Eastman and his lineage is Samuel (6), Nathaniel (5), John (4,3), Nathaniel (2,1). More details are available.

We do not have their death places, but in the 1860 and 1870 census they were in Tehama Co CA. From these census, they had Frank, ca 1858; Mary A, ca 1861; Catherine A, ca 1862; Nathaniel E, ca 1864. We have not read the 1880 or later census.

**Query:** Mary Hetzel asked if we knew where in Ohio, Albert MERRILL b. Aug. 20, 1804 in Freeman, Somerset, ME. lived at the time of his son, John's birth. John was born March 16, 1836, perhaps near Dayton, Ohio. This family later lived in Switzerland Co., Indiana.

**Answer:** We don't know where Albert was in 1836. In 1830, he was in Columbia, Hamilton Co, OH, but we have been unable to locate him in 1840. In 1850 he said all his kids were b. OH, but we don't know where.

**Query:** Vicky Linke wrote saying: Pearl Margaret Merrill, daughter of Alonzo Merrill and Lilly June Moore, was born in Kirclin, Clinton County, Indiana September 15, 1899. This was my grandmother on my father's side. She married Jesse Wilton Kellar January 8, 1916. I have been told by my Grandmother that her grandfather, William B. Merrill, was born about 1847 and was the son of John Merrill and Sarah. I just know William married there in Clinton Co IN in 1868, Sarah Clow or Cole.

**Answer:** We looked in our 1860 census compilation of Merrills looking for a 13 year old William in IN. There actually were a couple of Williams in IN whose father was John, but their mother was not Sarah. Then we started looking in other states, who might have moved to IN after 1860. We found in Augusta, Bracken Co, KY, the family of John, 45; and Arminta, 42; Sarah A, 17; Levin, 15; Richard, 14; William, 13; Zacariah, 11; Henry, 11; John S, 7; Nancy H, 2; Permelia T, 2 mo. [in the light of the first daughters name, Sarah A (Arminta?), the mother's name could also have been Sarah Arminta, but we have only found it as Arminta]. John m. 1838 Nov 20, Arminta Bell, in Brown Co OH.

When we visited the Allen Co Library in FT Wayne in 1997, we copied a newly published [1996] book by cousins of yours, Stan and Sharon Merrill, called Merrill - Cloe Families. This 75 page book details the descendants of John's parents, Samuel and Nancy (Payne) Merrill, right down to the present day on some lines. Your grandmother, Pearl Margaret, her m. to Jesse Wilton Keller, and four children Buelah Gail, Jesse Kenneth, Warren Francis, Marvin Stanley are listed.

Samuel and Nancy Payne came to Bracken Co KY from MD's eastern shore. The original immigrant for this line is a William [ca 1645-1710], who came to Somerset Co MD in 1668 as an indentured servant, worked off his servitude, m. Eliza (\_\_\_?\_\_\_) and left nine sons and four daughters when he d. in 1710. While we don't know the intermediate generations between William (1) and Samuel, we know Samuel is a descendant of immigrant William.

*Note:* Subsequent communication with Sharon Merrill revealed that she has since discovered the lineage of Samuel (5) [and Nancy Payne] to be William (4), Joshua (3,2), William (1). There is still some question as to whether there are two Joshua's, father and son, or whether there is only one, who m. twice [both times to Marys], and his family was by the 2nd wife. The early MD records are sparse and they used the same given names over and over.





## Our Earliest Beginnings

### Wherstead, Suffolk County, England

By Steve Merrill

#### Early History

"Wherstead village lies three miles south of Ipswich. It is an ancient settlement, and from its soil the plow has brought to light many evidences of occupation by Romans and by early Britons. In Domesday Book the place is described under the names Querstede and Wervesteda. The name of the village and parish is in our day generally pronounced Wersted or Warsted by the residents, the a in the latter case having the sound of a in father. A short ride by electric railway through Ipswich streets carries one to Bourne bridge, which marks the boundary of Wherstead parish. Near the bridge, on the Wherstead side, stands the Ostrich Inn, as it stood at the time of the New England migration. In those days, however, oysters were still found in Orwell waters, and the name "Oyster Ridge" had not been corrupted to the name of the exotic bird whose effigy now adorns the swinging signboard of the roadside tavern.

The fields, when in view -- as I saw them shaded by the threatening clouds of a gloomy day in June, 1910 -- showed deep shades of green, brightened sometimes in the foreground by the hectic flush of wild poppies. The soil is light loam: the chief crops wheat, barley and roots.

Wherstead village is a scattered array of cottages lining a crooked lane which branches off from the high road on the east. The village is devoid of stores or public house, and the only industry, aside from agriculture, is carried on in a modest smithy."

*A Merrill Memorial*, Samuel Merrill, 1928 (1983 reprint), p 48-49

#### St. Mary's Church

Situated just east of the village of Wherstead, Wherstead Church resides in a lush green meadow surrounded on three sides by a well kept cemetery of old tombstones. Some are hard to read but others are well preserved. Looked for but did not find any Merrill burials after a quick walk through. Closed most of the time now, the vicar is known to visit and perform services about once a month. If you wish to see inside, you will need to find out when services are conducted.





"The Wherstead church is not seen from the high road, nor generally from the village. It stands apart, near Wherstead Park and "the Mansion," where the owners of many of the broad acres of the parish have lived. The church shows a mixture of Norman and Gothic architecture and is believed to date, in some of its parts, from about 1100. It is built of small stone, mostly of a flinty character, with gray sandstone trimmings, and have a red tile roof. The square tower, ivy-grown, dating from about 1400, contains three bells, one of which is about five centuries old. The newest bears the

date 1675. The church is small, seating only 122 people."

*A Merrill Memorial*, Samuel Merrill, 1928 (1983 reprint), p 49-50.

"The Wherstead parish church is dedicated to St. Mary. There was a church there as early as 1086 (with 3 acres of free land). The chancel was built in the 14th century. The original structure was Norman with walls four feet thick. The north and south doorways are also Norman. The main structure including the tower is 15th century. In 1800, a copper ball was placed on top of the tower as a landmark for vessels on the Orwell. It was removed in 1902. The tower has been restored with pinnacles.

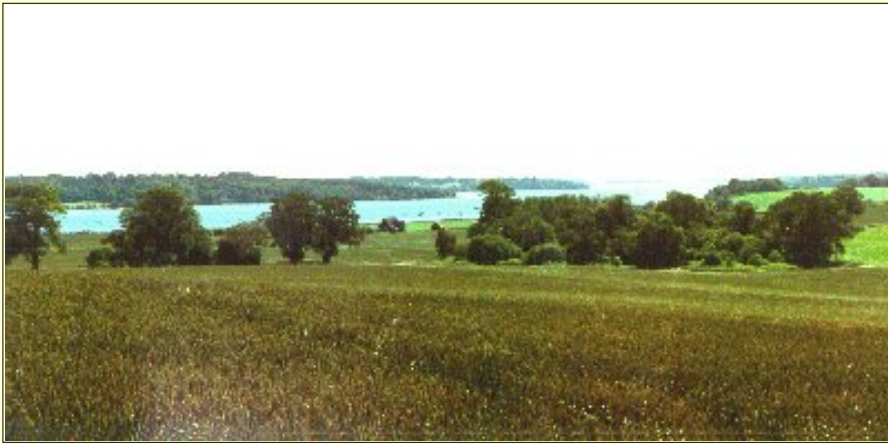


There was also a monastery at Wherstead but it's only known from documentary evidence It was established ca. 1225 and is believed to have been united with the Priory of Sts. Peter and Paul in Ipswich ca. 1528.

Suggest you try to get a copy of Goult, *A Survey of Suffolk Parish History*, Vol. 2 (East Suffolk: I to Y), SCC, 1990. It's got lots of ancillary data about the parish."

Peter Wyant, Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada (23 April 1999)

## Photographs of the Area



Looking down the River Orwell, east toward the English Channel. Photo was taken near the Wherstead Church.

Countryside view from the train looking east toward Wherstead.



House at the crossroads, said to be over a hundred years old, just west of the church at Wherstead.

Note the crest above the doorway although not of the Merrills.

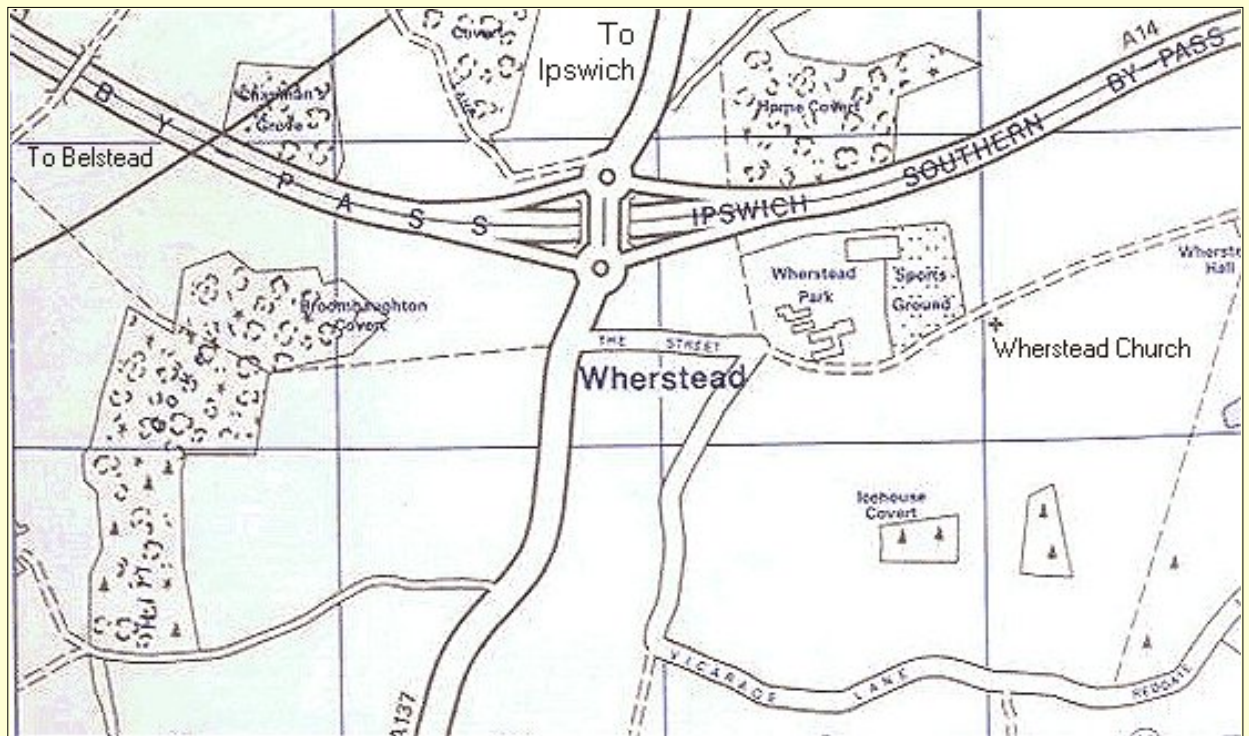
The family living there at the time (1983) didn't know anything about it.





## Map of Wherstead

Located 3 miles south of Ipswich in Suffolk county, England.



Additional information on the village may be found at [www.wherstead.com](http://www.wherstead.com).

## The Author

Steve Merrill of Cullman, Alabama has been interested in the Merrill genealogy since an early age when his grandfather showed him the Merrill coat of arms. Not believing you could just mail-order your family crest, he set out to find the supporting evidence. It was this interest that lead him to a career in computers. He has since created more than 125 web sites and maintains several dealing with Merrill family history including:

[www.merrill.family](http://www.merrill.family) also known as [www.generations.info](http://www.generations.info)

[www.wherstead.com](http://www.wherstead.com)

[www.merrill.org](http://www.merrill.org)

He can be contacted by e-mail at [Steve@Merrill.org](mailto:Steve@Merrill.org)

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