
The Merrill Newsletter

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Please remember to renew your Subscription - still only \$10 for 4 issues!

Old Photo

by Allen R. Merrill



I don't know whether you've had much experience with the restoration of old photographs; I had not, until this past week.

I sent the following message to the President of the Leeds, Maine Historical Society, and thought that you might be interested in seeing and hearing details of my good luck, also.

"My father passed down an old, small, (1 3/4" x 2 1/2") glass plate photograph negative of a picture taken in 1860, showing my great-grandfather, John Y. Merrill, holding my grandfather, Edwin K. Merrill, on his lap. Attached to this email is a copy of that picture that a photo shop restored for me last week. (This attachment is from the CD they gave me after generating the restoration.)

I've been wondering how to get that old picture enhanced since I first received it. About ten years ago I took it to a photographer that restored old photos - retouching them by hand, but he said that the image was in such bad shape that the time and cost of trying to correct all the little cracks in the original would be prohibitive. He suggested having a portrait artist paint a copy of the picture, but that didn't appeal to me.

Then, last week I decided to take the little glass plate to a local photo shop that advertises restorative work on old pictures, done electronically, to see what they could do.

I started off by explaining to the people in the shop that I had tried to scan the original myself, but that I couldn't even get an image, so I didn't know whether they'd have much success. They politely pointed out that they were using a \$35,000 scanner, at which point I had to confess that my son had bought the scanner which I used, and it probably had cost somewhat less than \$35,000..... (I didn't specify about \$34,850 less!).

I'm very satisfied, amazed, really, at the result.

Edwin was born in November of 1859. I'd guess his age in the picture to be, what, about 3 to 6 months old? Edwin's mother, Nancy (Manwell) Merrill, died in June of 1860, so this picture had to have been taken either just before or just after her death. I don't know whether it was taken in a studio in Lewiston, or by an itinerant photographer in Leeds; I suspect the latter, considering the problems attendant to transporting an infant in those days.

As you will recall, John Y. Merrill purchased the house and property on old Merrill Road (now Church Hill Road) in Leeds where the Andres now live. John died there after raising Edwin, who had been born in, and then raised his family in the same house.

I'm sending 5 X 7 prints to my children, grandchildren and to other descendants of John and Edwin that I have on my mailing list.

Allen."

You may recall an article about John Y. Merrill's Diaries that ran in The Merrill Newsletter a couple of years ago. Same guy.

In case you're interested: I told the photographer to do whatever was necessary to give me the best chance of getting a good picture. They estimated that the "Custom" level of effort, at \$69.95 would probably be necessary. After the restoration they added \$10.00 more for the scan, (from which I received the CD), plus \$2.95 for my first 5 X 7 print, plus the state tax of \$5.39, for a total of \$88.29, which I was happy to pay. Incidentally, the prints are even sharper and clearer than this email image, by far!

The foregoing may provide some guidance for any others who know as little as I did about photo restoration.

John P. Merrill, Jr. of Batavia, NY

by Vicki Merrill Johnston

Batavia, NY 1895 Thursday [August 15, 1895 edition of newspaper, The Daily News.]

"DOMESTIC TROUBLE

John Merrill's Wife Leaves Him and Comes to This Village to Live!

John Merrill, who had his eyes blown out and was otherwise terribly injured by an explosion at his lime kiln on the Oakfield Road on May 20th. last, is now having domestic trouble. His wife has left him.

Lawyer John G. Johnson, who was at work for Mr. Merrill when the accident occurred, took charge of Mr. Merrill's affairs while the latter was in a hospital in Rochester. He lived on the Merrill place, where Mrs. Merrill remained, and held Mr. Merrill's power of attorney. The lawyer has continued to live there since Mr. Merrill returned from Rochester. Mr. Merrill became dissatisfied with the manner in which the lawyer was conducting his business affairs, and on Tuesday he came to Batavia and went to the house of his brother, Joseph Merrill of Washington Ave. Yesterday Mr. Merrill revoked the power of attorney and instructed Sheiff Neasmith to order Lawyer Johnson to vacate his premises at once. The Sheriff also was instructed to request the lawyer to present his bill for services rendered to Mr. Merrill, and that it would be paid at once. The Sheriff carried out his instructions, Lawyer Johnson then went to Justice Robson's court and commenced a suit against Mr. Merrill to recover for services rendered. Mr. Merrill went out to his farm this morning and found that his wife was moving out, taking a portion of the furniture in the house and bring it to a house at No. 105 West Main Street, Batavia. When Mr. Merrill asked his wife what she meant to do, she informed him that it was her intention to leave him. She upbraided him for coming to Batavia and remaining two days. Mr. Merrill says his wife left some furniture for him, but he cannot live there alone and he doesn't know what he can do. It is possible that he will go to live with his sister, Mrs. Fish, whose place is near his on the Oakfield Road. Mr. and Mrs. Merrill have been married nearly 30 years. They had no children."

This is a story I got from the Batavia, NY newspaper. John Merrill was my relative. His father John Merrill Sr., who was born in 1801, was the oldest brother to my great-great-grandfather Andrew Jackson Merrill.

John stayed with his sister, Mary Julia Fish, for awhile. John's wife, Catherine, came back to him and stayed with him till he died in 1910.

John Merrill Sr. was born May 9, 1801 in Vrooman's Landing, Schoharie Co. NY to Elisha Merrill and Anna Froman.

Elisha Merrill was born March 9, 1771 in East Canaan, Conn. He married Anna Froman on September 16, 1798 in Vrooman's Landing Schoharie Co., NY. Anna Froman was born November 21, 1779 in Vrooman's Landing, NY. Elisha and Anna Merrill had 12 children: Wealthy, John, Mary, Susan, Nelson, Eliza, Chauncy, Hiram, Sylvester, Deloss, Edwin, and Andrew Jackson Merrill .

They lived in Laurens, NY from 1810 until 1833, then moved to Batavia, NY. Elisha and Anna Merrill moved with their son Deloss Merrill to Benton, Michigan in 1847. Edwin Merrill had moved to Benton, Michigan in 1845 and caught a cold and died in Benton in Jan 1847. Edwin Merrill was the first person buried in Potterville Cemetery. This is also where Elisha and Anna Merrill are buried. Elisha Merrill died

September 21, 1850 in Benton, Michigan. Anna Merrill died August 11, 1857 in Benton, MI.

John Merrill Sr. married Mary Champlin in Batavia, NY on September 23, 1829. They had 6 children:

Mary Julia Merrill born August 29, 1831 in Batavia, NY. She died April 8, 1911 in Saginaw, Michigan. Mary Julia was married to Horace Fish.

Julia Frances Merrill born June 27, 1833 Batavia, NY. She died January 11, 1852 in Batavia, NY

John P. Merrill Jr. born May 20, 1836 in Batavia, NY. Married to a Catherine E.? John died December 10, 1910 in Batavia, NY. I have his Obit.

Sarah Merrill b 1840 Batavia, NY She married a How/Howe. She died before 1881.

James Merrill b 1842 Batavia, NY I have not been able to find anything on him since 1860. Died ?

Joseph C. Merrill born March 1849 in Batavia, NY, married Bertha W. Bucholz in 1872 Batavia, NY. Joseph C. Merrill moved to Salt Lake City in 1900. Joseph Merrill died Dec 6, 1915 in Salt Lake City, Utah

This is the John P. Merrill Jr. Obit from newspaper:

"December 9, 1910 Batavia

John P. Merrill Died From Heart Disease:

Blinded 15 Years ago By Quarry Explosion,

John P. Merrill died suddenly at his home on the Oak field Road about 8 o'clock this morning from angina pectoria. Mr. Merrill had been able to be about and was in usual health until the attack of heart disease today.

After rising and eating his breakfast Mr. Merrill did some chores about the house and then sat down. Suddenly his wife, who was in a adjoining room, heard him groan, and went to his assistance. He died before a physician could be summoned. Coroner Snow viewed the remains and granted a certificate of death.

Mr. Merrill was born in Batavia on May 20, 1836, and spent his whole life in this town. For several years he was employed at the furniture and undertaking establishment at No. 111 Main street now conducted by H. E. Turner, being employed by the late C. H. turner and the late George D. Williamson, Mr. Turner's predecessors. Later he made a business of buring lime in a quarry on his place on the Oakfield Road.

On May 20, 1895, while Mr. Merrill was blasting at his quarry, a blast went off prematurely. He stood nearly over it and his eyes were blown from his head. He was otherwise badly injured. After his recovery he acquired the instinct of the blind and was able to find his way about the village with a cane and could go any where unassisted. Mr. Merrill was widely known and highly esteemed. He leaves, besides his wife Catherine, one brother Joseph C. Merrill, who is now in Salt Lake City, Utah, and a sister Mrs. Mary Julia Fish of Oakfield road.

The funeral will be held from the house on Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock."

NEW QUERIES

by Howard and Jean Merrill

Query: Dottie West needed information on John K. (maybe King) Merrill b. 15 Apr. 1811 in New York City. He was m. 29 July 1832 in Palmyra, NY to Elizabeth or Eliza Gardner. It was a double wedding as Elizabeth Gardner's sister was married at the same time. She was b. 25 Aug. 1809 in Boston, MA (although I haven't been able to find her birth there) and she d. 27 Jan. 1883 in Palmyra, NY. John Merrill's father--name unknown--was supposedly born in Paris, France. John Merrill was a chairmaker and had a brother who went to CT. They had the following 7 children:

1. Melvina Eliza b. 27 Oct. 1834 and d. 29 Nov. 1838 or 2 Dec. 1838
2. Josephine Merrill b. 2 Aug. 1836 and d. 20 Aug. 1918 m. 27 Oct. 1864 William Parsons (this is my line).
3. John G. Merrill b. 19 Aug. 1838 and d. 18 Mar. 1867 of typhoid and lung congestion.
4. Fredrick Augustus b. 14 Dec. 1840. He lived in New York City and he d. 1 Nov. 1896 in either Palmyra or Rochester NY. He m. Jessie Mitchell.
5. Thadeus Alphonso b. 10 May 1843 and d. 15 Dec. 1843 in Palmyra, NY
6. Cora Merrill b. 22 Apr. 1849 m. 1. Wayland Trumbull and 2. Joseph Blaby and she d. 28 July, 1906 in Palmyra, NY
7. Sara M. b. 18 May 1851 and d. 12 June 1899 in Palmyra, NY. She may have been a missionary.

Query: Shirley Scott had her husband's lineage posted on their homepage (descended from Daniel (4) [William (3,2,1)] and Elizabeth Lytel of NC through their daughter Mary who m. Samuel Lambert).

Query: Carol Sue Smith Wilcoxson said her grandfather was Ernest Clifford Merrill born 03/14/1903 in Mackinaw, IL., died 04/29/1993, married, 1926, Alberta Francis Davis Main [d. 1977]. He lived most of his life in Salina, Kansas. He was the youngest child. Other sibs were Esther (Hegland), Venita or Venida (Lewis), Fern (White) and Lavern (Gust) twins, and Lavone (died as a child). His father was General Mansen Merrill who was married to Lillian Hall but divorced. She later married Ollie Gray and then Tom Williams. For years they thought General Merrill was killed trying to jump a train to get home after a visit to see my grandparents in Salina, KS. When I was about 11 years old he showed up out of the blue and I have pictures of me and my brother with him. He lived with a woman somewhere in IL and died in the late 50's or early 60's in IL. My mother Alice Vivian Merrill Smith was an only child. I met all of my great aunts and uncles when I was a child and lived in Salina but lost touch.

I have no dates for General Mansen Merrill or Lillian Hall. All I know about him is that his father disowned him when he married her. His father owned a farm that later became Peoria, Ill. Lillian Ann Hall-Merrill-Gray-Williams is buried in the Gypsem Hills Cemetery in Salina, KS but we haven't found the grave or a stone. Her father was a fortune teller and laborer, who lived to be around 80, and remarried after 1926. Family thought 2nd. wife poisoned him.

Query: Damaris Reynolds wrote, I have an ancestor, Thomas Wells, who married Elizabeth Merrill 13 May 1720 in Saybrook, CT. Her father is supposed to be Thomas Merrill married to Elizabeth Roe and I have read that Thomas was part of the Newbury Merrills, but I have not been able to verify it.

Query: Rachel Collins asked: Would you happen to have a Frederick Willis Merrill in your line? He lived in NH and then married a Lucinda Ella in Maine.

Query: Michele A. Koltermann lists an ancestor Andrew MERRILL, b. 1804, New Gloucester, ME No wife listed, ch: i. Antone Raymond, b 1832 Sept 22 ME, d. 1906 Dec 28 LaCrosse. WI, m. 1863 NY Hannah Elizabeth Barker, lived New Rochelle, Long Island. NY; Andrew's other ch, ii. E.R. Merrill resided New Rochelle; iii. Lydia.A. Merrill-Jones, resided NYC.

Query: Nell Truitt in Florida said " My husband, John, a descendant from the Robert Merrill lineage through Eli Reid of Alabama, remembers his mother, Martha Clara Merrill Truitt, and her mother, Nancy Elizabeth Shreves Merrill, speak about the old family coming from Wales. Has any researcher found a Merrill progenitor who came from there? Or a story about how the family gave refuge to the King, and he honored the family?"

Query: Phyllis Evans wrote "My husband is related to the Merrill's starting with Nathaniel and brother John. My husbands cousins are the Parker's of Lowell, MA. I have their family history on loan. Looking for the direct link for the D A R. Grandmother was Julia Evelyn Campbell grand-daughter of William Merrill and Elsie Bixby."

Query: Doris Merrell Harlan wrote that she believes that her sixth grandfather was Capt. Benjamin Merrill from NC. Proposed lineage: Capt. Benjamin-Andrew-John-William Roland- John B- Thomas Roland -John and my brother Billy Merrell. Somewhere along the way Merrill became Merrell. She knows that they last three are her relations - have proof of them, but can't find any paper trail connecting William Roland and John B together.

Query: Paul A Merrill of Australia wrote that he had traced his Merrill line back to a Stephen Merrill b 4 Aug 1832, lived in Green Hill, Stanley Parish, New Brunswick, d. 6 Mar 1907; married Mary E Graves b 30 Jul 1837. I believe that Stephen might have met Mary in Maine, considering that his son, Joseph William Merrill (great grand-dad), born 1866 met his wife Hattie Elizabeth Pray in Maine, since she was born there. Do you have any records of a Stephen in the early records? There is a note that his mother might have been Abigail ? born in 1798, so I'm looking for a Merrill born around 1798 in either NB or Maine. Any chance that he is related to the Marriner Wood Merrill line?

Query: Allan Stewart said: The furthest back I have been able to go in search of Merrill ancestors is Bathsheba, b. abt. 1767 in CT. She died August 14, 1850 in Buffalo, Erie, NY, and was living with her son, George Washington Merrill (George 2), at the time per the 1850 Black Rock, Erie, NY census. Her obit in "Erie County NY Obituaries" said "Merrill, Mrs. Bathsheba, mother of George W., d. Aug 14, 1850, age 83". The obit of her apparent husband is also given "Merrill, George, father of George W., June 9, 1848, age 67". It is interesting that he was some 14 years younger than she was. I have assumed that this George and Bathsheba were husband and wife, and have unsubstantiated indications that there were two other children:

Susan Merrill who m. Edwin Dunbar and Elizabeth Merrill, b. 1805, d. 1824

George Washington Merrill and Louisa Flagg Burr had the following children:

George Burr Merrill, b. 1844 NY, d. 1920 PA, m. Mattie Egan

John Flagg Merrill (my great grandfather), b. Dec 25, 1848 NY, d. Sept 8, 1922, m. 1st Charlotte Maude Foster, m. 2nd J. Vera Lash

Mary Louise Merrill, b. 1849 NY, m. Wm. Leavitt Haines 1869, had two girls, Marion & Louise.

Charles Thompson Merrill, b. abt. 1855, d. Apr 15, 1880

Frank Elton Merrill, b. 1857, d. 1860 PA

Louisa Seymour Merrill, b. Oct 26, 1865, m. Corwin Pottenger Rees, had one son, Merrill, and later adopted Marion Haines, her niece.

This family moved from Buffalo to Erie, PA some time between 1855 and 1860.

Query: Greg Hunter of Elbridge NY was searching for MERRILL lines connected to James MERRILL born 1805 and wife Sophia SHURTLEFF and their 14 children. They were located in Alexandria Bay, Jefferson Co, NY. James' Children: Jerome (1832-1845), Ann Eliza (1834-), Catherine (1835-1918), Jane N. (1836-1913), Hannah E. (1838-1911), Melvin (1840-1845), James M. (1840-1845), Mary A. (1841-1847), John (1843-1847), Harriet (1844-1847), Sarah L. (1846-1936), William J. (1848-1876), Mary E. (1849-1926), Alice S. (1852)

Query: Allan Merrill of Salt Lake City would appreciate any information on the fate of Justin Jared (7) [son of Samuel] Merrill's first wife, Annie Lovina Manchester. Cannot find a trace of her after 1838, no date or place of death. Justin Jared remarried in 1840 (Camillia Wirack).

Query: Suzanne Congdon of Smyrna GA is looking for ancestry of William R. Merrill, b. 9 Oct. 1806, son of Richard Merrill and Sarah A. Wallace, b Sep.17.1807, daughter of Moses Wallace. Their son, William Campbell Merrill, b. Dec 1851, married Anna Hartshorn, b. Jan 1862, and is my gggrandfather. William R. came to Ulster, PA from Easton, PA in 1847. I located a Richard Merrill in the 1800 Census records of Northampton county, PA and suspect he may be my Richard. I found a Richard Merrill who married Mary Neigh, born in Northampton County, PA

Query: Virginia Lawson Long of Mountain Grove MO is searching for info on the family of Isaac and Cynthia (Owens) Merrill, who are living in Wright Co MO in 1860. They moved to AR during or after the Civil War, and are in IZARD and Stone Co AR. She needs date of death and place of burial for Cynthia.

Query: Ginger Merrill Menefee of Boone Co KY, a long time correspondent, is still looking for any information on Col. Benjamin Merrell, b. 11 Dec. 1759, Hopewell NJ. Married Mary B. Hart on 11 Jan. 1789 in NJ. Had 5 Kids. Sarah Hart 1789, John McIver 1792, Nathaniel Wilson 1794, Martha Bonneau 1798, Anna Maria Gilchrist, 1801

Benjamin's children were born in South Carolina. Moved to Ky. Pension record filed in Fayette Co. Ky. Some info from Chronicles of the Scotch-Irish Settlement in Virginia. I descend from John McIver Merrell.

QUERIES AND ANSWERS

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.

Answer: Elizabeth Merrill [1799-1878] was the daughter of Solomon Woodruff (6) Merrill [1770-1844] and Abigail Stoddard. Solomon's lineage Merrill lineage is Eleazer (5), Abraham (4,3), John (2), immigrant Nathaniel (1). More details on this Merrill lineage are available.

We do not, however, follow the Merrill daughters after they marry, so we have nothing on Elizabeth's eleven children, or on the families into which they married. We are concerned strictly with the Merrill surname. With info on over 40,000 Merrill males, plus their wives and daughters, we have neither the time, energy, nor storage space to follow these ancillary lines. Sorry we could not help you on your Randolph line.

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

Answer: What particular dates do you have question about? We would be glad to try and clarify. Although we are aware of and have record of the data in England, we have not included it in our database. We start with immigrant Nathaniel and his wife Susannah. Susannah's maiden name is unknown. She is believed to be the daughter by a previous m. of Susan, wife of Gregory Wolterton, proprietor of Hartford CT. Since Susan's first husband's surname is unknown, so also is Susannah's. She would be the stepdaughter of Gregory Wolterton. After Nathaniel's death, his second son, John, still a minor, went to Hartford to live with his grandmother, Susan, and Gregory Wolterton. Since Gregory was childless, John Merrill eventually inherited the bulk of Gregory's estate.

We do have some dates we can add.
Phebe Abbott 1727-1754 Sept 29.
Amos Merrill 1753- 1840 Mar. 13

Lois Wiley d. 1855 Mar 28, age 95-2.

We do not have a death date for Samuel W Merrill, but we question the 1862 date given. He and Martha are still around in Brooklyn, MN in the 1870 census.

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.

Answer: John Dabney McLemore Merrill m. 2nd, 1882 May 10, Virginia Caroline (Jones) Oliver. We don't know the given name of her first husband - Oliver. Her twins and another daughter, Grace Dabney, all d. young.

We find it interesting that Kate Claire and Paul Jones Merrill were raised by Virginia's brother Paul Lee Jones. We have that Paul Jones Merrill m. 1915 Sep. 1, Paullee Jones. We suspect that this was Paul Lee Jones's daughter, Paul Jones Merrill's first cousin. They had Paul Jones jr who d. young [1916 Oct. 13 - 1917 Jan. 12] and David Ledrick, b. 1922 Aug. 6. Paul Jones Merrill's dates were 1885 Feb 1 - 1949 July 31. His Merrill lineage was John D M (7), James W S (6), Nicholas D (5), Andrew (4), Nicholas (3), Philip (2), Richard (1), immigrant to Staten Island NY ca 1680.

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?

Answer: Last fall we finally got to the MD Hall of Records in Annapolis when they were open [closed Mondays]. Although we only had a day to research, we came away with a bunch of data. We found the will of the Joseph you refer to who d. 1783. It turns out that Joseph's son Levi [we est. b. ca 1745], who we est. m. ca. 1768 Ann (??), d. ca. 1784 [Levi's next of kin was listed as brother, Arthur, who was also exec. of his father, Joseph's will]. Widow Ann was named as Levi's Admin'x. The three children [Levi jr, Sarah, Joseph] were ward's of the orphan's Court. There are numerous records in the Orphan's Court, changing guardians, for it seems Ann later m. John Tull, and they wasted Levi's estate. From all the records and the times at which the children reached their majority and received what little was left of their inheritance, we estimate that Levi jr was b. ca 1769; Sarah, b. ca 1774, and Joseph, b. ca Sept 1777. We do not know what became of this 1777 Joseph after he reached majority in 1798. There is no Joseph listed as head of household in Worcester or Somerset Co in 1800, 1810, or 1820 census. We don't know who your Joseph L, b. 1809, parents were. We believe that Levi jr m. Eleanor Townsend and had Levi, 1802 Mar 6; and Harriet, 1810 Mar 9 [and perhaps others]. There was a Levi listed in the 1800 and 1810 Worcester Co census, but we have no way to know if this is Levi jr. His age fits, and he had 2m [under 10] in 1810. Records indicate there were a number of other Levi's in the area at the time. Seems like everybody used the same names for their sons. When you start off with

nine sons of the immigrant William, it makes for a lot of confusion at a time when very few records were kept.

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.

Answer: Your Mary Merrill, 1750 Sept 1, who m. Jonathan Alden was the daughter of John (5) [1722-1753] and Sarah Fuller. John (5)'s lineage is Nathaniel (4,3,2,1). More details are available. A Merrill Memorial by Samuel Merrill on page 299 states of Mary (6) "m. Jonathan Alden, a descendant in the sixth generation from John and Priscilla Alden who figure in "the Courtship of John Alden"."

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, Abraham², David^{3,4}, Winthrop⁵, John^{6,7}, 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 John⁷? 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 John⁷. Together they had six surviving children. Where can I go to find info on birthplace for John⁷, name of first wife, and date of their marriage, names of their children?

Answer: You are certainly correct in saying Merrill Memorial [MM] was in error with John 7's death date. We found him in Liberty twp, Warren Co IA in 1860 and in Madison, Polk Co IA in 1870. We haven't read the 1880 census yet. Glad to have his correct d. date. From the birthplaces given for the children, he certainly moved around a lot. From fgs from a correspondent and from the 1860 and 70 census we have John and Sarah Cady's children as: Phoebe, 1840, IN; William, 1841 July 9, IN; Emory, 1845, IL; Sarah, 1847 June 26, IL; Anna, 1852, IL; Emma, 1855, WI; Oscar C, 1857, WI; Ellen, 1859 ca Oct., WI, but by July 1860 they were in IA. When did they move to NE?

We did not find them in 1850 in IL. MM says his father, John (6) d. 1865 in Freeport, Stephenson Co IL. In 1850 we found John (7)'s brother, Winthrop (7) in Wayne, Stephenson, IL. It looks like we need to go back and look more closely in Stephenson Co - the indexer may have misinterpreted Merrill as something else.

In 1840, we found them in Jackson twp, Steuben Co IN: John, [40-50]; wife, [20-30]; 1f [under 5]; 1m [5-10]; 1m [10-15]; 1m [15-20]; 1m [60-70] (his father?). Probably only the daughter [newborn Phoebe] is Sarah's.

We did not find them in IN in 1830. MM states that John (6) lived in Lebanon NH, Poland, NY; Ashtabula, OH and Freeport, IL. We didn't find either John in Herkimer Co NY or Ashtabula Co OH in either 1820 or 30.

We did find what we believe to be John (6) in Grafton, Grafton Co, NH [about 10 mi east of Lebanon] in both 1800 and 1810. Whether he was there in 1797 when John (7) was born, we don't know, but we would look for his birth either there or in Exeter where John and Abigail were m. in 1791.

What we know of John (6)'s other sons is: -Gilman m. Maria Barrett 1818 in Batavia NY, and was in Butler Co OH in 1820. By 1830 he was in Warren Co PA. He stayed there and he d. there in 1860. Widow Maria was still there in 1870. -William - we don't know where he d. in 1822, or if he m. -Winthrop - was in Stephenson Co IL in 1850 and 60 and d. there 1863.

His daughter was b. in Chautauqua NY in 1833. -George W was in Poland NY in 1850, but according to MM d. 1856 in Freeport IL. -Samuel - nothing known.

HEY! in looking for Winthrop in 1830 and 40, we find in Ellicot, Chautauqua Co, John Jr [30-40]; wife, [20-30]; 1m [under 5]; 1m [5-10]; 2m [20-30] (brothers- Winthrop and perhaps George?). I think we may have found John (7) and his first wife. It certainly is consistent with the children by her that we found in the 1840 IN census. We don't know her name or the name of her three sons.

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.

Answer: Thank you for posting to the Merrill Newsletter homepage. In the lineage you posted, it appears that you left out a generation.

Nathaniel and Hannah Belden [not Belton] did have a daughter Hannah, but her dates are 1765 Jan 9 - 1845 Aug 19 and she m. 1788 Jan 1, Elisha Moses. It is Nathaniel (5)'s son Nathaniel (6) [1762 Oct 5 - 1834 Aug 29] and wife Huldah Hurlbert [m. 1789 July 2 in Goshen, CT] whose daughter, Hannah, was b. 1806 and d. 1873. We did not have record of her m. to Ebenezer Spencer. Do you have a date and place for this m.? The Genealogy and Biography of Ancient Wethersfield indicates that Nathaniel (6) and Huldah had eight children - we only have record of three: Mariah, Hannah and Nathaniel. Do you have any information about the other five?

With regard to the original immigrant, Nathaniel; the dates you posted are incorrect. Nathaniel was baptized 1601 May 1, in Wherstead, Suffolk, England and d. Newbury MA 1654/5 Mar. 16. His first four children were baptized in Lawford, Essex, England 1634-1638. When we were in England two years ago we visited both these churches. Pictures of these churches are posted on Steve Merrill's website <http://www.merrill.org/wherstead/> (*Coincidentally, Steve's article on Wherstead also appears in this issue. Ed.*)(7:1)

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 Syntha 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.

Answer: Joshua's parents were William Jackson [1780/84 - 1834] and 2nd wife Catherine Russell [m. 1831 Nov. 3 in Coshocton Co OH]. William's first wife, Elizabeth [possibly Greer?] had a dozen children: John, ca 1805; David, ca 1806; Sarah, ca 1808; Greer, ca 1809; James, ca 1812; Elizabeth, ca 1814; Joseph, ca 1816?; Abijah, 1818; Margaret, ca 1820; Henry Melville, ca 1822; Mary, ca 1823; William, ca 1827.

William is listed in Mill Creek, Coshocton Co OH in the 1830 census and in Franklin, Fayette Co, PA in 1810 and 1820. In 1810: William [26-45]; wife [26-45]; 3m,1f [under 10]. In 1820: William [26-45]; wife [26-45]; 4m,2f [under 10]; 2m,1f [10-16]. In 1830: William [40-50]; wife [40-50]; 1m [under 5]; 1f [5-10]; 1m,2f [10-15]; 1m [15-20]; 4m,1f [20-30].

Also in Franklin Twp, Fayette Co, PA in 1810 is Abijah Merrill and wife [both 45+]. In 1800, also in Franklin twp is Bija Merrit [believed to be Abijah Merrill], both [45+], and a son [16-26]. Based on William Jackson naming a son Abijah, we believe William Jackson is the son of Abijah. Based on family tradition - no hard data - William Jackson and Abijah are said to have come from Snow Hill MD. We have no record of an Abijah b. in Somerset or Worcester Co, MD, but if they came from Snow Hill, they are undoubtedly descended from William, b. ca 1645, who came to Somerset Co MD in 1668 as an indentured servant, worked off his servitude, m. Elizabeth (_?_) and left nine sons and four daughters when he d. in 1710. With so many sons and they all seemed to give their sons the same given names, following the lineages in this family is difficult, and few lines have been documented with certainty. It seems likely that Joshua Russell is descended from immigrant William of Somerset Co MD.

The only fly in the ointment of such a proposed descendancy is an isolated NJ record that states an Abijah [of Morris Co NJ] m. 1763 a Sarah Din of Monmouth. We know of an Andrew of Morris Co NJ, who after the Rev. war, went by way of Loudon Co VA, western MD and WV to Clark Co KY. Relatives were in Allegany Co MD and adjacent PA. We don't know if this Abijah was related to Andrew or not - early NJ records are almost as sparse as those in MD - or if this NJ Abijah could be the one who later shows up in western PA. These are the only two Abijahs we have record of before 1800. Andrew's lineage is believed to be Nicholas (3), Philip (2), immigrant Richard (1) of Staten Island.

Many years ago, we copied in SLC a family group sheet on Joshua Russell submitted in 1949 by a ggranddaughter, Bertha (Poor) Gerber [thru son George Washington]. It had that your ancestor, William Jackson, m. 1886 Jan 1, Lydia Coats [but no more info on his line]. You have Lydia McAllister. Another tidbit we found interesting on the fgs was that George Washington m. Mary Ann Jones, d/o Hugh William Jones and Mary Elizabeth McAllister - related? We don't have anything on Lydia - we only record the wives' parents if available - we don't try to follow the wife's line or the daughter's children - we have our hands full with just the Merrills.

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);

Rebeccah, 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.

Answer: The published vital records of Haverhill, MA, state that Lucie and Benj. Stanley were m. in Haverhill before 1716. It does not give an exact date. Obviously with Ruth bapt. 1713, they were m. before that. The Haverhill vital records only record the b. of John (3) [Nathaniel (2,1)] and Lucy Webster's last three sons, Stephen, 1700 Sept. 10; Enoch, 1702 June 23; and Nathan 1704 Apr 15, and these are almost the earliest births recorded there. The Newbury vital records only have the birth of their first son, Nathaniel, 1687 July 27, recorded, but *A Merrill Memorial* states that they lived in Newbury till 1697 and their first five children [including Lucy] were b. there. So we don't have a firm b. date for Lucy, but have estimated ca 1692 in Newbury. John (3) d. 1705 May 15 in Haverhill.

We only copied the Merrill section of the published vital records, so we don't know if Lucy (Merrill) Stanley is listed in the Haverhill deaths. The NH vital records are far less complete than those of MA and again we copied only the Merrill surname records, so would not have Lucy and Benjamin Stanley's death, even if it were recorded there.

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."

Answer: Samuel R, 28, was in Rising Sun, Ohio, IN in 1850 with wife Elloner [Dunning] and sons Mortimer, 2, and Walter, 11months. In 1860 and 70, he was in Adair Co, MO [still with Elinor] and more kids. Samuel is the s/o Morris [Elijah or Pomeroy] and Rhoda Emma Robbins who was also in Rising Sun in 1850. Morris was b. 1779 in Stephenstown, Rensselaer, NY and d 1872 Dec. 31 in Rising Sun. We do not know who Morris's parents were. We would be greatly interested in any info you have on Samuel Robbin's Merrill surname descendants right down to the present day.

The Editor's Plea

by Lil Follett-Hall

PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE send me your family histories, queries, ancestral anecdotes, and anything else you might have related to our Merrill ancestors, genealogy research tips, genealogy instruction, or even a good joke once in a while. This newsletter has been lately published infrequently due to the scarcity of subscriber-submitted material for me to publish. Oh, how I need your help, my dear cousins! If you are not sure that your material would be acceptable, write to me at lilhall@mpinet.net, and ask, *please*. The offer of free subscriptions to submitting authors whose work is published is still in effect.

Our web host for the newsletter, Steve Merrill, to whom we are very grateful, is working hard to get all of the back issues online. These previous issues are **FREE** to access. Just go to

<http://www.merrill.org/genealogy/newsletter.html>.

This is Steve's access page for all of the newsletters. When Steve's project is finished, you won't need a password to view our first 5 years of newsletters (Vol 1:1 through 5:4), plus a real treat: the November, 1940 issue of *The Merrill Bulletin*. The issues for the current volumes (6 and 7) will still be accessed by subscription only.

Many thanks to the authors published in this issue, Allen R. Merrill, Vicki Merrill Johnston, and, of course, our Query Experts, Howard and Jean. Vicki is now a new free first-time subscriber!

